WRESTLING FORUM YEARBOOK
1988

BY JON GALLAGHER
AND THE STAFF OF WRESTLING FORUM
WITH SPECIAL COMMENTS BY
OUR READERS AND SUBSCRIBERS

PUBLISHED BY: Jon Gallagher
Wrestling Forum Newsletter
P. O. Box 65
Knoxville, IL 61448

Wrestling Forum is published on the 15th and 30th of each month. rates for the regular newsletter are $1.50 per issue and available in subscriptions of up to six months.

STAFF
Ed Garea-Phantom of the Ring
Sean Grande-title hisories
Jeff Siegel-Wrestling Barometer

All material copyright c Jon Gallagher, 1989.
All rights reserved. No part of this book may be photocopied, or otherwise reproduced without the written consent of the Publisher.

FIRST PRINTING- March 1989

AN OPEN LETTER TO SUBSCRIBERS, READERS ETC.

Dear Readers;

Well, here it finally is, the 1988 Wrestling Forum Yearbook. It's been a long time coming and I hope it's worth the wait.

I put together some figures while trying to compile this thing. Would you believe that over 150 hours of actual typing, researching, counting votes, etc. went into this thing (near we can figure it was 167 hours). That's more than four forty hour weeks. We used thirteen disposable typewritter ribbons typing this. I used five correction tapes (probably would have used seven if I'd been able to catch all the typographical errors!). It was a lot of work, but I wanted to give you the best yearbook we've ever produced. I think we succeeded.

I'd like to thank all of those of you who took time to vote in this year's year end awards. There were only 54 ballots counted, and we certainly appreciate the time you took. I'd also like to thank Steve Sims for all the help he provided in the research; Ed garea for his continued support especially the late night phone calls to keep me motivated; Dave Meltzer for his weekly efforts to keep us all better informed; and thanks to all of you who ordered this yearbook.

A few noted before we get started. Jeff Siegel was vacationing in India and did not have time to cast his votes before the deadline. His choices are listed here, but they were tabulated in the final count. In many cases, Ed Garea and Sean Grande did not include comments with their awards so their picks are listed where applicable.

There may be a few mistakes, content-wise, among these pages. That is only expected as wrestling is still a "closed-shop" so to speak. If you find a mistake, please bring it to out attention so we can share it with our readers.

Again, I apologise for being so late with the publication. you deserve the best for putting up with us all year long; I wanted to give it the very best I had.

Thanks for reading,

Jon Gallagher
Editor

P.S. If your mailing label is printed in black ink.....

C O N T E N T S

YEAR END AWARDS

Man of the Year.....2
Wrestler of the Year.....4
rookie of the year.....6
Worst promotion.....7
Promotion of the Year.....8
Tag Team of the Year.....10
Most Overrated.....11
Most underrated.....12
Jobber of the Year.....13
match of the Year.....14
Announcer of the Year.....16
Color Commentator.....17
Angle of the Year.....18
Dumbest Angle of the Year..20
Feud of the year.....22
Dumbest Feud of the Year...23
Dipstick of the Year.....24
Best babyface.....26
Best heel.....27
Worst Wrestler.....28
Manager of the year.....29
Most disgusting event.....30
Readers Awards.....31
Best TV show.....32
Best Major Event of 88.....33
Worst Announcer.....34
Best Interview.....35
Best Finishing manuever....36
worst Finishing maneuver...37
Biggest shock.....38
Most improved wrestler.....39
Best Newsstand magazine....40

TITLE HISTORIES

WWF.....41
AWA.....41
NWA.....42
CWF.....42
Pac NW.....43
World Class.....43
CWA-Memphis.....44
Calgary.....45

1988 TRIVIA GAME JEOPARDY.....45
DEMOGRAPHICS SURVEY.....46
PHANTOM OF THE RING
by Ed garea.....48
1988 HEADLINES.....51
WRESTLING BAROMETER
BY JEFF Siegel.....54

WRESTLER ACTIVITIES

Abdullah.....56
Johnny Ace.....56
Brian Adams.....56
Chris Adams.....56
Brian Adias.....56
Adrian Adonis.....56
Akeem-One Man Gang.....57
Arn Anderson.....57
Andre the giant.....57
Brother Ernest Angel.....57
Angel of Death.....57
Tony Anthony.....58
Bob Armstrong.....58
Brad Armstrong.....58
Steve armstrong.....58
Assassin.....58
Tony Atlas.....59
Avalanche Paul Neu.....59
Baby Doll.,.....59
Badd Company.....59
Barbarian.....59
Art Barr.....59
Ron Bass.....59
Brutus Beefcake.....59
Chris benoit.....61
British Bulldogs.....61
Bruiser Brody.....61
Bad news Brown.....61
Brickhouse Brown.....61
jim Brunzell.....61
Larry Cameron.....61
Steve Casey.....62
Dennis Condrey.....62
Wendall Cooley.....62
Jim Cornette.....62
Cowboy Tony.....62
Steve Cox.....62
Paul E Dangerously.....62
Danny davis.....62
Danny davis.....62
Colonel Debeers.....63
Abuddah Dein.....63
Demolition.....63
Ted DiBiase.....63
JJ Dillon.....63
Steve Doll.....63
Shane Douglas.....63
Downtown Bruno.....64
Drill Instructor.....64
Jim Duggan.....64
Derrick Dukes.....64
Bill Dundee.....64
Bobby Eaton.....64
Paul Ellering.....64
Eric Embry.....64
Fantastics.....65
Manny fernandez.....65
Ric Flair.....65
Cactus Jack Foley.....65
Robert Fuller.....66
JJ Funk.....66
Doug Furnas.....66
Greg Gagne.....66
Jim Garvin.....66
Ron Garvin.....67
Mike George.....67
Robert Gibson.....67
Doug Gilbert.....67
Eddie gilbert.....67
Terry Gordy.....68
Superstar Graham.....68
Guererro Brothers.....68
King Haku.....69
Scott Hall.....69
Stan Hansen.....69
Bret Hart.....69
hart Foundation.....69
Gary Hart.....69
Jimmy Hart.....69
Owen Hart.....69
Michael Hayes.....69
Billy Jack Haynes.....70
bobby Heenan.....70
Curt Hennig.....70
Hercules.....70
Willie B Hert.....70
Phil Hickerson.....71
Hulk Hogan.....71
Honky Tonk Man.....71
Tim Horner.....71
Sam Houston.....71
Hillbilly Jim.....71
Lord Humongous.....71
Austin Idol.....72
Iron Sheik.....72
Islanders.....72
Joey Jackson.....72
Marty Jannetty.....72
Jeff Jarrett.....72
Jason.....72
Paul Jones.....73
Junk Yard Dog.....73
Kamala.....73
Kevin Kelly.....73
Killer Bees.....73
Ivan Koloff.....73
Nikita Koloff.....73
Buddy Landell.....74
Stan Lane.....74
Brother Love.....74
lex Luger.....74
Dutch Mantell.....75
Rick Martel.....75
Wahoo McDaniel.....75
Mighty Wilbur.....75
Mike miller.....76
Moondog moretti.....76
Rip Morgan.....76
Ricky Morton.....76
Don Muraco.....76
Dick Murdoch.....76
Nasty Boys.....76
Nord the Barbarian.....76
Rip Oliver.....77
Original MX.....77

Bob Orton.....77
Diamond Dallas Page....77
Max pain.....77
Iceman parsons.....77
Ken Patera.....78
Al Perez.....78
D J Peterson.....78
Scott Peterson.....78
Brian Pillman.....78
Roddy Piper.....78
Jim Powers.....78
Powers of Pain.....78
Tom Pritchard.....79
Private Pyle.....79
Harley Race.....79
Butch Reed.....79
Steve Regal.....79
Dustin Rhodes.....79
Dusty Rhodes.....79
Ricky Rice.....80
Tommy Rich.....80
Road Warriors.....80
Buddy Roberts.....80
Jake Roberts.....80
Rockin Robin.....81
Rock & Roll Express....81
Rockers.....81
Paul Roma.....81
Buddy Rose.....81
Randy Rose.....81
Mike Rotundo.....81
Rougeau Brothers.....82
RPM's.....82
Russian Assassins.....82
Tito Santana.....82
Coco Samoa.....82
Samoan Swat Team.....82
Randy Savage.....82
Sheepherders.....83
Ron Simmons.....83
Dick Slater.....83
Sgt Slaughter.....84
Slick.....84
Doug Sommers.....84
Southern Rockers.....84
Dan Spivey.....84
Ricky Steamboat.....84
George Steele.....84
Rick Steiner.....84
Scott Steiner.....85
Sting.....85
Strike Force.....85
Kevin Sullivan.....85
John Tatum.....85
Terry Taylor.....86
Terminators.....86
Ultimate Warrior.....86
Greg valentine.....86
Jimmy Valiant.....86
Varsity Club.....86
jack Victory.....86
Virgil.....87
Nicolai Volkoff.....87
Kerry Von Erich.....87
Kevin Von Erich.....87
Baron Von Raschke.....87
Koko B. Ware.....87
Warlord.....87
ken Wayne.....87
Steve Williams.....88
Barry Windham.....88
Kendall Windham.....88
Gary Young.....88
Larry Zbyszko.....88
Boris Zhukov.....89
Tom Zenk.....89

DREAM CARDS.....89
plus scattered throughout

MORE READER AWARDS....89

1988 READER AWARDS

On the following pages you will find the complete results of the 1988 Year End poll as voted on by our readers. The categories were set up by Wrestling Forum and the votes were all "write-in" variety.

Three points were awarded to each 1st place vote cast; two points for a second place vote and one point for each third place vote. Ties had the point value split for the place it was voted in.

Fifty four people took part in this year's balloting, down from last year's total of 94. Comments from readers and the staff of Wrestling forum are listed after the final rundown.

We have made every effort to include each and every vote cast in the year end poll. Many people voted for a first place finisher only. Others voted for two or three. Many ballots contained combinations. That is the reason there may be discrepancies in the vote totals.

throughout the yearbook you will find readers' "DREAM CARDS." We asked that readers include with their ballot a card with five matches on it listing their dream card if they could use any wrestler from any promotion for one night. The cities listed for the site is the reader's home town. These have been randomly placed throughout the yearbook.

MAN OF THE YEAR
TED TURNER

PREVIOUS WINNERS: None.

This year is the first year for this category. It was designed to honor the individual who has had the biggest impact on the sport of wrestling during the previous year, either positively or negatively. This year's winner, TED TURNER, bought the NWA from Jim Crockett but has yet to fully had his full impact felt.

NOMINEE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Ted Turner	9	5	2	39
Vince McMahon	9	2	4	35
Ric Flair	5	4	4	27
Akira Maeda	5	2	1	20
Randy Savage	2	6	1	19
Bruiser Brody	3	3	0	15
Eddie Gilbert	3	2	1	14
Jerry Lawler	2	1	1	9
Ted DiBiase	3	0	0	9
Jose Gonzalez	1	2	0	7
Dave Meltzer	2	0	1	7
Jim Cornette	1	1	1	6
jon Gallagher	0	3	0	6
Hulk Hogan	1	0	1	5
Jerry Jarrett	0	2	1	5
Dusty Rhodes	1	0	1	4
Owen Hart	1	0	1	4
Teresa DeMarie	1	0	0	3
Lanny Poffo	1	0	0	3
Terry Taylor	0	1	0	2
Stu Hart	0	1	0	2
Arn Anderson	0	1	0	2
Barry Windham	0	0	2	2
Honky Tonk Man	0	0	1	1
Damion	0	0	1	1
Jim Ross (TBS)	0	0	1	1
Jack Pietrick	0	0	1	1
T. Fujinami	0	0	1	1
Sting	0	0	1	1
Paul E Dangerously	0	0	1	1
Jim Crockett	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

The race was hotly contested between McMahon and Turner up until the last day with the lead changing hands several times throughout the course of voting. Ric Flair made a late attempt to overtake the two leaders, but fell short by the dealine.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: My third choice goes out to fellow editor, Dave Meltzer. His weekly bulletin has had more influence in the business than can ever fully be known. Liked or not by the boys, his opinions are always respected and sometimes his ideas make their ways on to our television screens. Second place goes to Jose Gonzales. His senseless murder of Bruiser Brody had a negative impact on the business, one that has been felt not only by devoted fans of Brody, but by the scores of independent promoters who depended on Brody to sell tickets. My first choice was Turner who has yet to be an impact into the NWA. The negotiations of the sale however, kept Titan guessing throughout the summer months and had them playing defensive ball rather than offensive. His final purchase probably saved the NWA from finalcial ruin and kept several potential defectors from joining the ranks of Titan.

Garea: Lanny Poffo. Just off what Jon described, Poffo gets my vote (editor's note...last trip the Fed made into Peoria, Lanny took time off from the autograph stand to play and hug a severly handicapped child earning him a Class Act of the Month). It is very easy to act charitable when the spotlight is on, but to act in a caring manner when in a semi forgotten tank stop takes real heart. Lanny may have won more fans that night than ever before.

Siegel: 1) Ted Turner; 2) Jerry Lawler; 3) Eddie gilbert.

READERS COMMENTS

GARY FISHMAN; 1) Flair; 2) Jerry jarrett; 3) Mcmahon...I don't feel very stongly about any of these choices as i think that the past year has been the stalest and dullest year in wrestling in years. I don't think there has been a great presence on the American scene this year to add great excitement or break the doldrums.

NAMEWITHHELD #1: I am not sure what to make of this category. I would understand if it was for someone who had done something positive for the sport, but according to your definition, jose Gonzales could get Man of the Year for making an impact, so I don't like the definition, so I'm not voting, so there!

JOE MANNA: I guess the person who had the biggest impact was Jose Gonzales, but I would never vote for that scum when the award is called "MAN" of the Year. As such, I have to go with Turner whose impact should have far reaching effects. I pick lawler for 2nd due to his defending the AWA belt across various federations. he has made this belt more prestigious than it has been in any recent time. I go for Cornette third, basically due to how he consistently keeps his team and the NWA interesting. His jokes and antics are always the highlight of any NWA TV program.

DON G SMITH: Maximum publicity isn't good if it degrades pro wrestling. Vince isn't as bad now as he was 4-5 years ago, but his totally unbelievable angles, turns, interviews and merchandise promotions continue to hurt wrestling more than anyone else can help it.

RON LEMIEUX: Jerry Lawler...He took the AWA title out of the gutter

man of the year

and put some meaning back into it. I really believe that he is an integral part behind the scenes of AWA, CWA and World Class working together.

TIM HARVEY: Ted Turner...he bought the NWA and saved Ric Flair.

STEVE YOHE: 1) Akira Maeda; 2) Randy Savage; 3) Tatsumi Fujinami...Maeda started his own successful organization and seems to be starting to push main stream wrestlers to a harder style. Randy Savage did well in the number one position in the US. Fujinami is one of the best workers who wrestled the top spot from Inoki.

NANNETTE JOHNSON: 1) Ted turner; 2) Randy Savage...no one knew whether the WWF could survive without Hogan, but Savage more than filled his shoes. in fact, for the first time in over a year, people started getting excited about seeing the champion again. 3) Owen Hart...Owen needs to get his ring psychology down as well as his interviews, but he is changing the way most wrestlers work. We are seeing more and more high spot matches and i believe the change is largely due to Owen.

LARRY LOVELL: I'll have to go with Vince McMahon in this category based on a number of things related to his maintaining the audience that his brand of wrestling attracted back in 1984. He got professional wrestling into prime time and laughed at his critics all the way to the bank. in an era where many artists starve and many hucksters and hypsters flourish, McMahon has embodied the spirit of P. T Barnum into professinal wrestling.

CHARLES HODGKISSON: If any one has the chance to listen to Flair give an interview to media (non wrestling) he presents himself as a professional and comes across as a credit to wrestling. This is a person the media can deal wth and the fact that he has been in the wrong role for the last three years did not help Crockett get over nationally like he could have. Eddie Gilbert gets second for his role in bringing the CWF back to life.

PROMOTER: Eddie Nakamoto CITY: Los Angeles
Sting vs Ultimate Warrior
Inoki, Saito, Fujinami
vs
Owen Hart, Bret Hart, & Terry Taylor
Demolition vs Road Warriors
Hogan vs Flair
Rick Steamboat vs Randy Savage

****

PROMOTER: Joe Mannion CITY: Prospect Park, PA
Medussa Micelli vs Missy Hyatt
Owen Hart vs Bret Hart
Big Bossman vs Akeem
Pat Tanaka vs Shawn Michaels
Ric Flair vs Hulk Hogan
NOTES: Flair goes on attack at the sound of the bell with chops to the chest. Hogan immediately hulks up. Hogan punches Flair twice, body slams him and comes off the ropes with the big leg drop for the pin in 23 seconds.

PROMOTER: Steve Bryant CITY: Tullahoma, TN
Brad Armstrong & Tom Pritcahrd
vs
Fantastics
Eddie Gilbert, Rick Steiner, & Sting
vs
Road Warriors & Ultimate Warrior
Dusty & Dustin Rhodes
vs
Ted DiBiase & Virgil
Owen Hart vs Jeff Jarrett
Ric Flair vs Randy Savage

****

PROMOTER: Bruce Grummert City: Lincoln, NE
card to be held in Rose Bowl
Randy Savage vs Sting
Road Warriors vs Choshu/Tsruta
NO DQ NO TIME LIMIT
Lex Luger vs Ultimate Warrior
CAGE MATCH
Abdullah, Kamala, Crusher Ayala
vs
Terry Funk, Terry Gordy, Stan Hansen
CAGE MATCH, NO TIME LIMIT NO DQ
Ric Flair vs Hulk Hogan
Notes: Flair seconded by Jim Crockett, Hogan seconded by Vince McMahon. Referee from cWA.

****

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

1. RIC FLAIR
2. TED DIBIASE
3. RANDY SAVAGE
4. BARRY WINDHAM
5. OWEN HART
6. STING
7. EDDIE GILBERT
8. TATSUMI FAJINAMI
9. JERRY LAWLER
10. BOBBY EATON

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986 - Ric Flair
1987 - Ric Flair

This year we've changed the voting for this category just a bit. Instead of asking for our readers to cast their votes for the top three choices, we asked that they list their top ten wrestlers for the year. The ratings should be based on a year's cumulative raking rather than the ranking at the time of voting. First place votes were awarded 10 points, 2nd got 9 on down through 10th place which got one point. Listed below are the nominees along with total points, number of ballots the nominee was named on and the number of first place votes received.

WRESTLER	PTS	BALLOTS	1st
Ric Flair	382	47	18
Ted DiBiase	329	43	10
Randy Savage	291	39	8
Barry Windham	233	35	0
Owen Hart	188	33	2
Sting	127	23	1
Eddie Gilbert	108	26	2
Tatsumi Fujinami	103	15	3
Jerry Lawler	86	19	2
Bobby Eaton	65	15	0
Curt Hennig	60	13	0
Akira Maeda	51	8	2
Hulk Hogan	39	7	0
Arn Anderson	36	10	0
Bret Hart	36	7	0
Terry Taylor	31	7	1
Kerry Von Erich	27	6	1
Rick Steiner	26	8	0
Keichii Yamada	21	3	0
Lex Luger	21	5	0
Tiger Mask	19	4	0
Tully Blanchard	17	5	0
Nobuhiku Takada	16	4	0
Bruiser Brody	15	2	1
Mike Rotundo	15	3	0
Ultimate Warrior	14	2	1
Brad Armstrong	12	3	0
Jake Roberts	11	2	0
Stan Hansen	11	3	0
Stan Lane	10	3	0
Tim Horner	10	1	1
Tom Pritchard	9	3	0
Tommy Rogers	9	2	0
Andre the Giant	9	4	0
Genchiro Tenyru	8	2	0
Jacques Rougeau	7	2	0
Terry Gordy	7	4	0
Bossman	7	1	0
Hiro Hase	6	2	0
Riki Choshu	6	1	0
Rick Steamboat	6	1	0
Dusty Rhodes	6	1	0

wrestler	pts	ballots	1st
Pat Tanaka	6	1	0
Road Warrior Hawk	5	1	0
Shawn Michaels	5	1	0
Rick Rude	4	1	0
Bam Bam Bigelow	4	1	0
Antonio Inoki	3	1	0
Honky Tonk Man	3	1	0
Chris Benoit	2	1	0
Al Perez	2	1	0
Johnny Smith	1	1	0
Brian Pillman	1	1	0
K. Yamazaki	1	1	0
Koshinaka	1	1	0

VOTING NOTES

Ted DiBiase jumped to an early lead by was finally taken over by Flair who had a run of eight straight first place votes. Two voters failed to name any wrestlers to ballots.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: 1. DIBIASE - I took Ted over Flair due to one important factor. Ted worked with Hogan and Savage almost exclusively and yet was able to vary his routine from night to night with either man. With Flair, he had the same match (however good) every single night. Flair began to vary his routine after the Turner buyout and ended the year #1 in my book, but I took things on a cumulative basis. 2. Ric Flair; 3 - Barry Windham; 4. Randy Savage 5. Owen Hart; 6. Tatsumi Fujjinami; 7. Sting; 8. Eddie Gilbert; 9. Terry Gordy; 10. Tom Pritchard.

Garea: (1) Akira Maeda: Who's done more not only for the sport, but also the integrity of the sport? (2) Tatsumi Fujinami: Were it not for the ascendance of Maeda, Fujinami would be the year's most dominant wrestler. He has an ability to make any opponent look good, even one such as Big Ben Vader. (3) Nobuhiku Takada: Next to Maeda, the UWF's most dominant wrestler. Defeated Maeda on November 10 to earn a shot at Bob Backlund. (4) Ric Flair: for remaining a good wrestler even under Dusty's fading pencil. (5) Randy savage: He performed decently as champion in Vince's traveling road show, and that isn't easy. (6) Eddie gilbert: His wrestling/booking helped revitalize a fading area which has continued to fade since he was booted out. (7) Owen Hart: Strictly off his Japan work (8) Ted DiBiase Strictly from memory (9) Biff Wellington

A surprise here, but he was so impressive in Japan, he merited consideration. (10) Bobby Eaton: His work remains solid no matter what the circumstances or angles.

Siegel: (he only picked three) 1 - Ric Flair; 2 - Barry Windham; 3 - Rick Steiner.

Grande: First, let me take full responsibility for this being a top ten category. It doesn't seem as if this, the most important award, should be a simple one, two, three voting system. Wrestler of the year should be that performer who combines in ring ability with imprtance to his or her respective promotion. In that light, i went with hulk Hogan 10th. despite his mediocre ring performance (albeit better than in previous years) and his five month summer sojourn, Hogan's importance to the WWf cannot be measured. owen Hart is my #9, mainly for his dazzling skills and ability to win over Titan fans in his role. eight is Genchiro Tenyru, the man who virtually carried AJPW through the first half of the year. Akira Maeda, a man who many chose as wrestler of the year was my #7 for sheer impact on the Japanese wrestling scene. Six is barry Windham, one of the NWA's real bright spots during 1988. After turning heel in April, Barry took his long awaited place among the best all around performers in the business. Just as curt Hennig did in 1987, Jerry Lawler held the AWA together during 1988 after taking Hennig's title in may. that's good enough for 5th. Fourth, I went with Ted Dibiase. One of the intrical parts of Titan's Hogan-savage transition earlier this year. Wrestling's #1 heel also continued his superior ring performance. 1988 was another banner year in the career of Ric Flair, the cornerstone of the NWA. perhaps we're just becoming used to his brilliance, but in 1988 I gave Flair third. Randy Savage is number 2. 1988 was the year Vince Mcmahon handed the Titan ball to Savage and he ran with it. Titan has no right to be disappointed in savage's performance as WWF champ. Randy's matches in thesecond half of the year may not have drawn as well as Hogan's, but after his feud wih Dibiase ran its course, he was paired with the likes of Bad News Brown, Andre and Akeem. The WWF ws no he only promotion to experience a rite of passage in 1988. Antonio inoki, the #1 man in the New Japan promotion for as long as anyone can remember was highly pressured to replace himself with tatsumi Fujinami. If Savage was America's top star in 1988, Fujinami was a comet. in addition to his historic clash with Inoki, the 35 year old Fujinami was magnificent carrying the talented and not so talented to great matches. It was a change that had to be made and Fujinami breathed new life into what was arguably the best promotion in the world. He's my wrestler of the year.

READERS COMMENTS

DON G. SMITH: 1) Flair (high visibility, top worker, dignity and class); 2) DiBiase (should be WWF champ...their best property): 3) Hogan (still Mr. Wrestling to most people); 4)Randy Savage (can't steal Hogan's thunder, even when Hulk was gone); 5) Barry Windham (an exciting athlete. Horseman angle worked) 6) Sting (An NWA top draw. Really likes what he's doing); 7) Andre the Giant (not so much a wrestler as a presence - but what a presence! Heel persona is great); 8)HTM (one of the funniest acts in the business and underrated by inside fans); 9) Lex Luger (NWA high exposure and good looks overshadow glaring weaknesses that should have been corrected by now); 10) Jerry Lawler (Big in Memphis but most fans don't care. WCCW connection not a big boost. Still, attention must be paid. He's good).

GARY FISHMAN: 1-Flair, 2-Windham, 3-Eaton, 4-DiBiase, 5-Stan Lane, 6-Arn anderson, 7-tommy Rogers, 8-Owen Hart, 9-Sting, 10-Eddie Gilbert. I picked Flair on top this year even though this is probably one of the worst years of his career. At this point, Windham might be a better wrestler than Flair but his matches are relatively short and his presence on a card just doesn't feel like an event as it does when I know I'm going to see Flair. I saw the Blue Blazer once this year live against Danny Davis in a bad match. I had the feeling that Flair against Davis would have been good as Flair can still make a stiff look like a solid wrestler. He may have lost a step and grown predictable, but i am not yet prepared to take away his crown.

NAME WITHHELD #1: 1-Flair, 2-DiBiase, 3-Savage, 4-Windham, 5-Steamboat, 6-bret hart, 7-Owen Hart, 8-Stan Lane. I could only pick eight as after that they get so close I can't include some and not others. These are my favorites to watch based mainly on workrate.

JOE MANNA: 1-Savage, 2-Flair, 3-Arn Anderson, 4-Sting, 5-DiBiase, 6-Tenyru, 7-Hansen, 8-Windham, 9-Eaton, 10-Lawler. The spotlight has been on the Macho Man for most of his year and he has truly come through with flying colors. His work rate and overall appeal is what makes hm #1 while he is able to keep marks and insiders both happy. Flair once again, night after night does the best job - his only problem is his role within the nWA. Hopefully he can gain more respect now. Arn Anderson is outstanding in the various moves that he makes and in he way he makes them. I have never seen him give less than his all and his interviews and persona are top notch.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
SCOTT STEINER

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Bam Bam Bigelow
1987: Shane Douglas

Many readers commented that the list of rookie candidates this year was much slimmer than in years past. Qualifications for rookie status is anyone who has not wrestled on a regular basis prior to October 1, 1987 for a major promotion. Scott Steiner, who won the much ballihooed Renegades Rampage in Memphis, took this category this year by doubling the point total of his nearest competition.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
SCOTT STEINER	13	8	8	60
Cactus Jack Foley	8	1	1	27
Todd Morton	3	7	1	24
Ricky Rice	4	3	5	23
Max Pain	3	4	1	18
Gary Albright	4	1	0	14
Derrick Dukes	1	5	0	13
Magnificent Mimi	3	2	0	11
Dallas Page	3	0	0	9
Steve Casey	0	3	2	8
Scott Levee	1	0	2	5
Gary Young *	1	0	0	3
Blue Blazer *	1	0	0	3
Sid Eudie	1	0	0	3
Mark Pyle	0	1	1	3
Brian Lee	1	0	0	3
Medussa Micelli *	1	0	0	3
Alan Martin	0	1	0	2
Larry Cameron **	0	0	1	1
Martin Gallagher §	0	0	1	1
Lori Lynn	0	0	1	1
Rocky Mnt Thunder	0	0	1	1
Jon Paul	0	0	1	1
Bob Holly	0	0	1	1

*Does not qualify for rookie status
** Will be eligible again next year due to limited work this year
§ Fan who had an altercation with David Sammartino in Watertown, NY

VOTING NOTES

Scott Steiner took an early lead and held off a challenge by Cactus Jack. Ricky Rice garnered most of his votes immediately after Superclash III.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: My third selection is Ricky Rice. His experience in Minnesota independents helped and he might have been higher except for his famous potatoe dropkicks. Second was Scott Steiner who moves decently for a muscular wrestler. He also had some "farm" experience working for a couple of years for Bruiser's group. My top pick goes to Cactus Jack Foley. Jack had also worked in independents in Pennsylvania and the East Coast and had a solid background in the sport before hooking up with Memphis. His specialty seems to be blading and taking bumps, both of which he is very good at.

Garea: Gary Albright by a slim margin over Todd Morton.

Siegel: Derrick Dukes is my only pick.

READERS COMMENTS

RON LEMIEUX: Not much but Rick Steiner is the best of the bunch. 2) Derrick Dukes; 3) Steve casey.

STEVE SIMS: What an awful year for rookies! Listing Gary Young is poetic justice; no one else qualifies.

MARK BENNETT: Steiner. I've watched him from his days with Bruiser Bedlam in Toledo.

JOE MANNA: 1) cactus jack Foley; 2) Derrick Dukes; 3)Scott Steiner. This really is a poor class; but at least these three may develop into solid workers. Cactus Jack may eventually develop into the next Jake Roberts sans the snake.

ERIC HOYME: Give me cactus Jack over everyone else. He was great in the independents and got a chance to hone his skill there. max pain checks in at two with Ricky Rice following up he rear. If someone would just show Ricky how to pull hose dropkicks.

TIM HARVEY: 1)Brian Lee...he's up for a major title; 2) Steve casey...for his WCCW light heavyweight championship bouts; 3) Todd morton...sure, if it weren't for Ricky Morton, he would be a nobody. Derrick Dukes? At least rcky rice might make it past prelim, if he doesn't quit again.

NAME WITHHELD #1: I would think that Todd morton will do well, just fromthe fact that Dave Meltzer ranked him high. But i didn't see that much out of him. Steiner was much more solid, probably because of his independent background with bruiser. I picked Steve Casey second and he was the best of the true rookie crop. Scotty the body Levee would be my third choice for no other reason than there isn't any other logical choices. Rice is too green, Dukes didn't get a chance to show me anything. Who's left? Rocky Mountain Thunder?

WORST PROMOTION OF THE YEAR

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: A W A
1987: World Class

Despite efforts to regain some of the notoriety of the past, Verne Gagne led the AWA to the top of the Worst promotion list for the second time in three years. In each of our three polls, the AWA and world Class have finished one-two each time, taking turns as the "winner."

PROMOTION	1st	2nd	3rd	total
A W A	16	10	5	73
World Class	6	8	6	43
Haynes' Oregon Wrestling Federation	8	3	0	30
N W A	5	3	3	24
W W F	4	2	3	19
Deep South	2	4	2	16
Central States	2	3	2	14
Global Wrestling	1	2	3	10
Blackwell's Southern	1	2	2	9
GLOW/POWW	2	0	2	8
Puerto Rico	1	1	1	6
Int. Champ. Wrestling	1	0	2	5
Portland	0	2	1	5
Pro Wrestling America	0	2	0	4
Continental	0	1	2	4
Memphis	1	0	1	4
I W A (MN Ind.)	1	0	0	3
Windy City	1	0	0	3
Florida Championship (Graham)	0	0	1	1
ACW (Roanoke, VA)	0	0	1	1
New Japan	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

Billy Jack Haynes' OWF took an early lead and held it through the first ten days of voting. The AWA and World Class then gained support and overtook the now defunct promotion. Four independents gained some negative recognition from local fans.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: I'm not sure how Bob Geigle managed to stay in business all year. He must have done it with mirrors. Even though he;s a nice guy, he gets my third place vote as a result of almost going out of business and cancelling the weekly cards in Kansas city. Second place goes to Global Wrestling Alliance out of Florida which turned Rusty Brooks and Red Roberts into Titan jobbers even when they ran the GWA. They claim to have taped several different TV shows during the year, but most claim if you saw one you saw them all. First place goes to the totally incompetent Billy Jack Haynes and his failed OWF. He had tohave set some sort of record for length of time in the promoting business proving that semi successful wrestlers shouldn't think that qualifies them for semi successful promoting.

Garea: First place goes to the WWF although it's less of a promotion than a traveling circus.

Siegel; 1)AWA; 2) World Class; 3) POWW.

Grande: 1) Global. No talent, bad angles, run by idiots. 2) OWF. No talent, bad angles, run ineptly by a nice guy in a profession of sleazy blood suckers. 3) Pre-alliance AWA. No Talent, no angles and run by a brain dead schmuck who proved beyond a shadow of a doubt the old adage that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

READERS COMMENTS

RON DOBRATZ: Concerning how well Verne did in 1983-84 combating the WWF, he has let the AWA deteriorate to where he deserves all the blame possible. There was an awful lot to criticize in connection with SuperClash as well. The WWF gets second place. Actually verne and Vince are tied, But i'll give Vince his due at Dipstick of the Year.

MARK BENNETT: AWA - a promoter knows something is wrong when he has more fingers than steady wrestlers

RON LEMIEUX: 1) ICW; 2) Central States; 3) AWA...why doesn't Savoldi and Geigel give it up? Although, if the AWA works with Geigel, they may not be in this category next year. ICW is great for insomnia.

CHARLES HODGKISSON: Verne gets my vote for turning one of the top promotions just a few years back into a promotion mainly for the purpose of doing TV tapings. Deep South is just bad. The nWA gets third, not so much of what they are, but of what they could be.

JOE MANNA: 1) OWF, 2) AWA, 3)WCCW... I like some of the wrestlers that wrestled in the AWA this year like the Rockers, Badd Company and he Guererros; and I enjoyed Superclash III. Especially since it enabled me to see some good talent from other promotions. The TV tapes fromNashville were really good. BUT...the reason for the AWA getting rated here is their handling of the way they deal with their fans. For instance, the unnanounced no shows, the Verne Gagnesuperclash announcement and the terrible way their tapes are handled (time slot wise) by ESPN.

PROMOTION OF THE YEAR
WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Watts' UWF
1987: W W F

The Titan machine continued its winning ways in the Promotion of the Year category by taking it for a second year in a row. The NWA took second for a second year in a row followed by a bottle neck for the rest of the spots.

PROMOTION	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Titan WWF	17	12	6	81
NWA	11	12	5	62
Continental	7	8	8	37
Memphis	4	4	5	25
New Japan	5	4	1½	24½
Maeda's UWF	7	1	1	24
All Japan	1	2	3½	10½
Japanese Women	1	1	1	6
Calgary Stampede	1	1	1	6
AWA	0	0	3	3
World Class	0	0	1	1
AWA/Memphis/WCCW	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

There was really never a challenge to Titan durng the voting. They started quickly and finished the same. Many fans cited Continental before Gilbert left and the dramatic turn it took when he did.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: Third spot was probably the otughest choice. I went with the NwA due to their advances including the Clash of Champions Series, the head to head battle with Wrestlemania, and the influx of new talent at the end of the year. Titan was hurt by the Slammies, Wrestlemania, Summerslam, and a couple of Saturday Night Main Events which stunk pretty bad. That combined with some really dumb angles (Akeem's birth and Mathilda's kidnapping) knocked them off my ballot. Second went to Continental which made some miraculous progress under the guidence of Eddie gilbert. Since these votes are based on the entire year, they captured second despite the abismal showing in the last three months of the year. For the number one pick, I have to go overseas to Japan and give the nod to Akira Maeda and his Universal Wrestling Federation. He has created a very successful promotion with no TV, yet selling out a monthly show. He has convinced fans that the action they see is real, not worked, and apparently doesn't have the ego problems of American wrestlers/promoters as he loses in the ring when he has to. That alone is worthy of some sort of award.

Garea: My vote here is for the UWF in Japan. It is professional wrestling as it was always meant to be.

Siegel: 1) UWF in Japan; 2) Memphis.

Grande: This category gets easier and easier every year. unlike three or four years ago, the smaller promotions like Memphis; Mid South, Florida and Calgary no longer have the talent to be competitive. All the creative booking and hustle won't put people in the seats if you don't have the talent. For me, and despite the trials and tribulations of 1988, a distant third spot went to the NWA. Giant Baba's All japan promotion suffered through a tremendous low in the early part of the year and the notable performances of San Hansen, Genchiro tenyru and Tiger Mask didn't make the difference. Despite internal problems, the nWA's traditional excellence inside the ring continually kept my interest throughout the year. Once again, the battle for number one in 1988 was between the most diametrically opposed promotionsin the history of wrestling...Vince McMahon's WWF and Antonio Inoki's New Japan: The first achieving excellence in every aspect of the game (except actual wrestling) the other possibly the best pure wrestling promotion in history. Interestingly, both went through a change at the top in 1988. NJPW replaced Inoki with Fujinami and the WWF with savage replacing Hogan. In fact, that NJPW actually thrived after the change gave them the edge.

READERS COMMENTS

STEVE SIMS: 10 New Japan, 2) All Japan, 3) WWF...i am sure a lot of people will vote UWF but their shows are too short and too infrequent for me. The margins between all of these promotions is razor thin; WWF is best in all respects except in-ring product and who they push.

GARY FISHMAN: It may seem crazy to choose the NWA for promotion of the year as they killed off New york, had tons of no shows and tossed aside a number of excellent wrestlers. The bottom line however is that month after month, I travel a total of 250 miles to Philadelphia, often at great expense and with the exception of the December 1987 card, have gone home feeling the investment was worth it.

TIM HARVEY: 1) Stampede...They've had Owen Hart, Brian Pillman and Steve DiSalvo this year. And just think, what if they had a decent sized promotion? 2) WWF...it brings me a great deal of pain to do this. But they made

money and paid the talent. 3) NWA...if they had a decent front office, they would be number one in my book.

JOE COUGHLIN: NWA first, WWF second. Titan's big box office gates are not an indication of a quality product, as most fans will tell you. And having the money to present things as they do means justtas little if the show is not entertaining. I like he high gloss package, but there isn't much inside the box.

ERIC HOYME: I really enjoyed the Continental promotion while it was on FNN and while Eddie Gilbert was the booker. Who'd have thought that one man in that position could weild so much power in attracting fans' attention? They get my first place vote just due to the short time they were so hot. Give a second place vote to the WWF for their glitzathon and a third place vote goes to Memphis for doing so much with so little.

MARK BENNETT: The WWF...what a pity.

RON DOBRATZ: None. It would have been the CWF had they kept Eddie Gilbert and continued as they had been doing. I guess in the US, the CWA is my favorite despite Memphis and my inability to find them on the FNN channel. Also give credit to Sam DeCero's Windy City promotion.

STEVE YOHE: 1) Maeda's UWF; 2) WWF; 3) tie between New Japan and All Japan...the uWF was successful at the boxoffice and should be a big influence on the business. WWF knows what it's doing and is wrestling to the average person. Give it some credit for pushing Savage and Dibiase to the top spots and introducing good workers like Owen, Anderson, Blanchard, Hennig Rockers and Bad News. I couldn't rate the NWA. I watch it and enjoy it as much as any, but they've had too many problems (if almost bankruptcy is a problem).

¶¶¶

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
STAN LANE & BOBBY EATON

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Eaton & Condrey
Midnight Express
1987: Eaton & Lane
Midnight Express

Jim Cornette's Midnight Express once again scored an impressive victory in our annual tag team competition, winning his year by 71½ points. Second through fourth place was more closely contested with everyone else scattered through the minimal totals.

TEAM	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Midnight Express	35	7	1	120
Blanchard/Anderson	5	12	9½	48½
Fantastics	4	10	14	46
Road Warriors	5	5	3½	28½
Rockers	2	2	4	14
Footloose	1	4	0	11
Rougeau Brothers	1	2	2	9
Samoan Swat Team	1	0	3	6
Tenyru/Hara (Revolution)	1	0	1	4
Hart Foundation	0	1	1	3
Powers/Roma	1	0	0	3
Diamond/Tanaka	0	1	0	2
Fuller/Golden	0	1	0	2
Demolition	0	1	0	2
Condrey/Rose	0	0	1	1
Bulldogs	0	0	1	1
Sheepherders	0	0	1	1
Youngbloods	0	0	1	1
Savage/Hogan	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

It wasn't even a close race with the Midnight Express taking a commanding lead from day one. The Road Warriors picked up some support based on their heel turn, and many comments concerning the Blanchard/Anderson team indicated their chances at a higher finish was hurt by their jump to the WWF. Note that the Powers of Pain and the Russian Assassins neither made the list even with one point.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: I went with Blanchard and Anderson third because of their good showing all year long. Even when they jumped to Titanland, they kept their work rate and got involved immediately with a feud. Second place goes to Bobby Fulton and Tommy Rogers, the Fantastics. Their role was super hard as they had to come to the NWA as replacements for the Rock and Roll Express (note also they are absent from the balloting) and had to win fan support from fans who don't like imitations. The Midnight Express, however, continued to impress me both working as heels and as babyfaces; no easy task. They were good enough this year to stand on their own with no help from Jim Cornette although I'm sure he had some influence not only on my votes but on others as well.

Garea: I went with Footloose (Toshiaki Kawada and Samson Fuyuki). While the Midnight Express were good, they were involved in too many silly angles to be effective.

Siegel: 1) Eaton & Lane; 2) Fantastics; 3) Brainbusters.

Grande: A number of possibilities for third place here. My first instincts were to go with Tully and Arn, but in reality, the biggest news they made in 88 was jumping to Titan. The Rougeau Brothers were outstanding in their role. They excelled among WWF teams. In Japan, my old stand by of Takada and Maeda are no more. The team I finally settled on were overlooked throughout he year despite the fact (or perhaps considering the promotion because of) they have held the AWA tag titles through most of the year was Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond. they didn't have tremendous impact, but in the ring they were super and any team that can add credibility to such an inept promotion deserved consideration. Second place, I'll swallow my pride and go with the Road Warriors. It's been my contention that they were among the most overrated teams work rate-wise in the business. But in 88, they did it all. Number one: midnight Express...everything you could want in a tag team and jim Cornette too.

READERS COMMENTS

STEVE SIMS: 1) Fantastics; 2) Midnight Express; 3) Rockers: The first two are obvious choices; the Rockers since about early September have shone above the others in Titan, especially with the minor push they are getting. Their feud with the Brainbusters may turn out to be a classic.

JOE MANNA: 1) Revolution; 2) Midnight Express; 3) Blanchard & Anderson. Tenryu & Hara really worked great together. Their moves, execution and heat generated were a treat to watch. I've seen them in more "Match of the Year" type events than any other team. The Midnight Express is great due to the way they compliment one another as well as some of the moves they invent. I think that Blanchard & Anderson did great in the NWA this year, and now maybe Vince will give them their due with matches against the Rockers.

MOST OVERRATED WRESTLER

DUSTY RHODES

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Hulk Hogan
1987: Hulk Hogan

Dusty Rhodes took Hulk Hogan's two year reign away this year to capture this category from himself. A debate has raged since the inception of this award as to who the wrestlers are overrated by. Are they overrated by casual fans or inside fans? Perhaps both. Judging from the names of the nominees this year, voters figured it must have been overrated by the casual fans or in the case of the winner, by the wrestler himself.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Dusty Rhodes	16	6	2	62
Ultimate Warrior	12	7	4	54
Hulk Hogan	10	8	4	50
Lex Luger	4	2	3	19
Brutus Beefcake	1	1	3	8
Nikita Koloff	0	2	4	8
Andre the Giant	1	1	2	7
Kevin Von Erich	0	3	1	7
Steve Williams	1	1	1	6
Honky Tonk Man	1	1	1	6
Kerry Von Erich	1	1	0	5
Jim Duggan	0	2	0	4
Bret Hart	0	0	0	3
Jim Niedhart	1	0	0	3
Sting	0	1	1	3
Dino Bravo	1	0	0	3
Wendi Richter	1	0	0	3
Riki Choshu	1	0	0	3
Greg Gagne	1	0	0	3
Vince McMahon	1	0	0	3
Bossman	0	1	0	2
Ric Flair	0	1	0	2
Rick Steamboat	0	1	0	2
Bulldogs	0	1	0	2
Jim Garvin	0	1	0	2
Rockers	0	1	0	2
Barry Windham	0	1	0	2
Dennis Condrey	0	1	0	2
Jerry Lawler	0	0	1	1
Rick Rude	0	0	1	1
Ted DiBiase	0	0	1	1
Bam Bam Bigelow	0	0	1	1
Demolition	0	0	1	1
Junkyard Dog	0	0	1	1
Road Warriors	0	0	1	1
Powers of Pain	0	0	1	1
Wajima	0	0	1	1
Randy Savage	0	0	1	1
Curt Hennig	0	0	1	1
Shawn Simpson	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

In one of our more closely contest races, there was no way to call this one until the final day of voting. Ultimate Warrior held a slim lead throughout most of the balloting with Hogan and Dusty staying right on his heels. Warrior, however, blew up as normal and allowed Dusty to stumble past. Hogan, an early favorite based on his two previous years' wins dropped to third this time around.

STAFF COMMENTS

Gallagher: A year ago, Bret Hart was underrated by almost everyone. So much so that he almost became overrated on account of it. This year, he showed me nothing since his match last November with Savage on Saturday Night's Main Event. He gets my third place vote. Steve Williams checks in with second place due to his wasted potential. First place is based on what I hear at work; everyone there thinks that Ultimate Warrior is the greatest wrestler in the world and I get enlightened everytime I mention that I'm a wrestling fan. Based just on that, if the casual fans think someone that blows up before the bell rings is great, that fits the dictionary definition of overrated.

Garea: Vince Mcmahon...the so called genius of wrestling will be around when his angle blows up in his face.

Siegel: 1) Bam Bam Bigelow; 2) Dusty Rhodes; 3) Big Bossman.

READERS COMMENTS

CHARLES HODGKISSON: Ultimate Warrior... maybe someone can get a stopwatch out and clock the amount of ring time he had during Summerslam and Survivor Series. No more than two minutes.

LARRY LOVELL: The Ultimate Insult got over pretty big with his second rate Hogan imitation. At least you can interpret the BS Hogan is saying in his interviews.

MARK BENNETT: Hogan...he was made for his one.

NANNETTE JOHNSON: 1)Hulk...few fans seem upset by hogan's absence; his routine is stale, he's less convincing with his balding pate and rubbery physique and his personality is obnoxious and overbearing. Even the children, his staunchest supportes, like savage as well, if not better. 2) Ultimate Warrior...a total zero in ability and has probably swallowed enough hormones to supply a whole herd of cattle for a year. 3) Rx Luger (this is not a typo - Rx)...same as Ultimate Wrrior.

RON LEMIEUX: 1) Warrior; 2)Beefcake; 3) Rick Rude...Notice how they're all from the WWF. I think it's time Vince reshuffles the guys who get pushed.

GARY FISHMAN (on his 3rd place choice); I think that Bret Hart is overrated by inside fans. Talent wise, there is no question he is an excellent wrestler but i can't recall even three 3 star matches he has been in this year.

MOST UNDERRATED WRESTLER

BRAD ARMSTRONG

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Bret Hart
1987: Curt Hennig

This seems to be everyone's favorite category as it always has the most nominees. This year's list has just 61 nominees, less than any year before, yet leading this year as the most diversified category.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Brad Armstrong	6	3	1	25
Terry taylor	4	4	1	21
Owen Hart	3	4	4	21
Sam Houston	3	2	0	13
Barry Horowitz	2	2	2	12
Chris Benoit	2	2	2	12
Tom Pritchard	2	1	1	9
Pat tanaka	2	1	1	9
Bret Hart	1	3	0	9
Mike Rotundo	3	0	0	9
Ted DiBiase	2	0	1	7
Curt Hennig	1	2	0	7
Sting	2	0	1	7
Arn ANderson	2	0	0	6
Keichi Yamada	2	0	0	6
Brady Boone	2	0	0	6
Bobby eaton	1	1	1	6
Eddie Gilbert	0	2	2	6
Tiger Mask	0	2	1	5
Derrick Dukes	1	1	0	5
Dan Kroffatt	1	0	0	3
Davey Boy Smith	1	0	0	3
Jeff jarrett	1	0	0	3
lex Luger	1	0	0	3
Buddy Rose	0	1	1	3
Stan Hansen	1	0	0	3
Jerry Lawler	0	1	1	3
Tommy Rogers	1	0	0	3
Shane Douglas	1	0	0	3
Randy Savage	1	0	0	3
Keiji Muto	1	0	0	3
Abdullah the Butcher	1	0	0	3
Brian Pillman	1	0	0	3
Mark Rocco	1	0	0	3
Jacques Rougeau	0	1	0	2
Biff wellington	0	1	0	2
Honky Tonk Man	0	1	0	2
Andre the Giant	0	1	0	2
Teijo Khan	0	1	0	2
Al Perez	0	1	0	2
Tim Horner	0	0	2	2
Mando Guerrero	0	1	0	2
Phil Hickerson	0	1	0	2
Ondi Austin	0	1	0	2
Barry Windham	0	1	0	2

THOSE WRESTLERS RECEIVING ONE THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR ONE POINT TOTAL: Cactus Jack, Dirty White boy, Chris Champion, Footloose, Steve lombardi, Ron Simmons, Sheepherders, Hulk Hogan, Cuban Assassin (Calgary), Jose Estrada, Samoan Samu, Makhan Singh, Bull Nakano, Shawn Michaels, and Ric Flair.

VOTING NOTES

This seemed to be he race that no one wanted to win. There was no clear cut leader until the last week when Brad Armstrong finally took a lead followed closely by both Taylor and Owen Hart. Actually, Taylor vaulted into a second place tie on the final day.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: I went with Ted DiBiase in third here because of the same reason I went with Ultimate Warrior in Underrated. Casual fans don't appreciate his ability just because he isn't a steroid freak. I went with Tom Pritchard as a second because he's underrated by both inside fans as well as casual just because he works in Continental. First place here goes to Terry Taylor who was stuck with a gimmick as the Red Rooster that will certainly make him underrated. The way he bounced around this year between promotions, someone in the business must not appreciate his talents either.

Garea: Mark "Black Tiger" Rocco. This guy has been a top worker during the last decade, but who outside of Japan and England has heard of him!

Siegel: 1) Tim horner; 2) Rockers; 3) Guerreros.

READERS COMMENTS

BILL HANRAHAN: mike rotundo works hard every time i've seen him.

STEVE SIMS: Why keiichi Yamada (1st) is still in preliminaries is beyond me. Brad armstrong (2nd) is a really excellent wrestler in all ways and could be one of the top ten biggest stars if used correctly. The Footloose (3rd) could be pushed a lot more too.

LANCE LEVINE: 1)Blue Blazer; 2)Awesome Ondi Austin; 3)Tim Horner...three people who <u>should</u> be absolute superstars. I'd love to see what Ondi could do with some of the Japanese girls.

TIM HARVEY; 1)Tommy Rogers - everyone knows he's great in the Fantastics, bu he can wrestle his tail off in singles as well. 2) Bret Hart - another fine tag team wrestler who is great when it comes to singles. 3) Brad Armstrong - if he was still in the NWA, he would be number one. He went the distance with Flair and got no credit for it.

JOE COUGHLIN: Owen Hart, which is mostly Vince's fault. Scrap the mask and give the guy a push, for crying out loud! no one need know it's the same guy, given the limited repetoire he's allowed to show. Can you imagine matches with Ted or Randy? Or even an angle where he's revealed as Bret's "long lost" brother? The potential is there, crowds love the guy, but masked wrestlers are almost universally looked at as foreign bozos, ala the Invaders. They have a built in anonymity. Fans feel the promotion must not want them to know who it is - they're literally faceless, and in this case especially, that's a crime.

JOBBER OF THE YEAR
BARRY HOROWITZ

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Randy & Bill Mulkey
1987: Brady Boone

The role of the jobber becomes increasingly more important as time goes by. The main purpose of the TV losers is to get the stars over with the fans. The better the jobber, the better the star looks to the casual fan. We choose to recognize the best of the job corps here with recognition they might well never receive.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Barry Horowitz	25	9	4	97
Sam Houston	7	7	5	40
George South	4	1	6	20
Scott Casey	1	5	3	16
Steve Lombardi	2	3	3	15
Mike Jackson	2	3	1	13
Randy Hogan	3	1	1	12
Randy Mulkey	2	2	0	10
Keith Eric	0	3	2	8
Brady Boone	1	1	1	6
Mike Sharpe	0	2	4	6
Jose Estrada	0	2	2	6
Italian Stallion	0	2	2	6
Tommy Angel	0	1	3	5
Billy Anderson	1	1	0	5
Ric Flair	1	1	0	5
Allan Martin	1	0	0	3
Curtis Thompson	0	1	1	3
Jake Milliman	1	0	0	3
Bob Emery	1	0	0	3
Lanny Poffo	1	0	0	3
Hiro Hase	1	0	0	3
Goro Tsurumi	0	1	0	2
Bill mulkey	0	0	2	2
Trent Knight	0	1	0	2
Chris Champion	0	0	1	1
Kenta Kobashi	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

Based on the strength of his series of matches with Owen Hart this year, it's no surprise that barry Horowitz pulled down the top spot among the jobbers. Barry had been a top jobber in Florida before joining Titan a couple of years back. He led from the early going and never looked back. Interesting that four of the top five finishers here work regularly for titan and the one who doesn't (George South) splits time between Titan and the NWA. The mulkey Brothers disappeared after their win two years ago but after resurfacing late in the year, they managed to pick a few votes as well. Next year may be interesting if they keep any kind of schedule going.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: Third spot in this category is occupied by Keith Eric from Memphis. In the CWA, they bring in a lot of stiff young talent for their first push. Being a jobber here means getting some bumps and bruisers from young potatoes. Keith works regularly and is deserving of the third spot. Second goes to last year's winner Brady boone who after winning the award, disappeared. Makes me wonder if winning this award is some sort of jinx. Hey! If Horowitz disappears my votes next year will go to Dusty, Hogan and the Ultimate Dingbat! Anyway, Boone was around long enough to do enough to get him second place on my list. Barry Horowitz is my choice as a winner based on not only the series with Owen, but his hard work on both TV and in arenas with all sorts of opponents.

Garea: Billy Anderson. He always looks good no matter who his opponent is.

Siegel: 1) barry Horowitz; 2) Mike jackson.

READERS COMMENTS

BILL HANRAHAN: 1) Ric Flair...who else had to put over so many marginal people and actually lose to such worthless opponents. 2) Randy Hogan...just for the look and the gimmick. 3) Sam Houston...for the bumps and working in steroid hell.

TIM HARVEY: Randy Hogan (1st)...I know he sucks, but this is the greatest jobber angle i've ever seen. I'm waiting for the WWF to come up with Steve Flair. Maybe Buddy Landell could play the part. barry Horowitz (2nd)...He's the best jobber there is. He could be a champion in the AWA or World Class. Steve Lombardi (3rd) he sells his opponent well with all the noise he makes. A frst class jobber.

JOE COUGHLIN: Steve lombardi first, for being such a jerk. Second is Barry Horowitz, probably a better worker, but not much of a personality (the kind of guy you want to see get beat).

MARK BENNETT: Horowitz...I saw him in a match wiht Owen - WOW!

JOE MANNA: Recently, Randy Mulkie (1st) made i back to TBS. I've seen the falls, the moves, the reactions that made him one of the best jobbers of all time. Horowitz (2nd) does his job well for Vince whle George South 3rd) seems to always be a true professional.

NAME WITHHELD #1: He may be dumb as a board (or act that way to kay fabe sheets) but Sam Houston always goes out of his way to make the stars look good. That's what a jobber should be judged on. I'll take brady Boone second and Barry Horowitz third. Just because you got to wrestle Owen Hart in a mini feud is no sign you're the best.

MATCH OF THE YEAR

RIC FLAIR vs STING
MARCH 27, 1988
GREENSBORO, NC

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1986: Ric Flair vs Barry Windham - 2/14/86
1987: Randy savage vs Rick Steamboat - 3/29/97 Detroit

A total of 44 matches were place in nomination for match of the year candidate this year. Many fans voted for the best match they saw live, others the best they saw on TV or by video tape. We have listed the date and the site where we could (many ballots did not contain dates or sites) as well as the participants and the vote totals. The eventual winner was the featured match of the first Clash of Champions and ended in a draw after 45 intense minutes of action.

DATE	SITE	WRESTLERS	1st	2nd	3rd	total
3/27	Greensboro, NC	Flair vs Sting	20	10	4	84
3/27	Greensboro, NC	Midnights vs Fantastics	7	12	4	49
6/25	New York City	Savage vs DiBiase (cage)	5	0	3	18
4/26	Chattanouga, TN	Midnights vs Fantastics	2	2	3	13
7/10	Baltimore, MD	Flair vs Luger	2	1	0	8
3/27	Atlantic City NJ	Savage vs DiBiase	1	1	2	7
7/10	Baltimore, MD	Midnights vs Fantastics	2	0	1	7
8/25		Lioness Asuka vs Chigusa Nagayo	1	1	0	5
8/29	New York City	Mega Powers vs Megabucks	1	1	0	5
???	SNME	Savage vs DiBiase	1	0	1	4
???	???	Hiro Hase vs Owen Hart	0	2	0	4
2/5	Indianapolis	Hogan vs Andre	1	0	1	4
3/27	Atlantic City	Muraco vs DiBiase	1	0	0	3
9/19	Memphis	Badd Co vs RPMs	0	1	1	3
???	SNME	Savage vs Bret Hart	0	1	1	3
???	???	Gilbert vs Hert	1	0	0	3
SNME	Nashville	Hogan vs Race	1	0	0	3
3/17	Los Angeles	Flair vs Sting	1	0	0	3
3/27	Greensboro	Windham/Luger v Tully/Arn	1	0	0	3
5/9	Memphis	Lawler vs Hennig	1	0	0	3
???	???	Revolution vs Yatsu/Tsruta	1	0	0	3
7/21	Cincinnati	War Games	1	0	0	3
August	Tokyo	Fujiwara vs Don Neilson	1	0	0	3
3/27	Atlantic City	Hogan vs Andre	1	0	0	3
11/10/87	Tokyo	Maeda vs Takada	1	0	0	3
11/26/87	Richfield OH	Survivor's Tag Match	0	0	2	2
April	Las Vegas	R&R vs Nasty Boys	0	1	0	2
???	???	Footloose vs Tigermask/Nakano	0	1	0	2
8/29	New York	Ultimate Warrior vs HTM	0	1	0	2
9/19	Memphis	Dundee/Jarrett/Valiant vs Fuller/Golden/Rich	0	1	0	2
3/19	Tokyo	Hase vs Koshinaka	0	1	0	2
3/5	Akita	Hansen/Gordy v Tenyru/Hara	0	0	2	2
2/8	Los Angeles	DiBiase vs Bigelow	0	1	0	2
???/	???	Davis vs Wayne	0	1	0	2
May	New York	Savage vs DiBiase	0	1	0	2
8/5	Los Angeles	War Games	0	0	1	1
???	???	Luger/Windham v Tully/Arn (Windham turns heel)	0	0	1	1
???	??/	Makhan Singh vs Owen Hart	0	0	1	1
10/29	New Orleans	Raod Warriors vs Midnights	0	0	1	1
???	???	Takada vs Koshinaka	0	0	1	1
???	???	fantastics vs ME & Cornette	0	0	1	1
12/5/87	Tokyo	12 women tag	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

At the time of the matches, it looked like the Flair-Sting match and the Midnight Express-Fantastics match from the first Clash of Champions would be the top two favorites in this category. That was never a question, but which one would win was. The answer was quite clear however with the 45 minute draw with Flair and Sting never really having any competition from the tag match.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: My third choice was the lone pick for this match. I chose the tag team match from Survivor Series I. We had an hour of non stop action which is only possible with so many "fresh" wrestlers to choose from. Second place went to the Fantastics vs Midnight Express from the first Clash.

A good solid match from all involved with a conclusive ending. The top choice was not chosen because of the ending. The judges angle from the Sting-Flair match also made my list for dumbest angle. But the 45 minutes of back and forth action with two quality wrestlers held my interest to the point of not being able to get up for a sandwich or even a bathroom break. That is what wrestling is all about.

Garea: Takada vs Maeda, Novemeber 10, 1987.

Siegel: 1. Flair vs Luger (Starrcade); 2. Flair vs Sting (Clash of Champions I); 3. Midnights vs Fantastics (Clash I)

Grande: Savage vs Dibiase, June 25, cage match for the WWF title. not only have I never seen the MSG crowd so caught up in a match, not only was it the most exciting cage match in the building's history, not only did hey have to work the finish around a fan who scaled the cage to help Savage, it was their second match of the night, having worked the same match less than two hours earlier (sans the fan) in Baltimore. It gets third place. Second was Flair and Sting (from 3/270 and first Midnights vs Fantastics (also from 3/27)

READERS COMMENTS

ERIC HOYME: It takes a lot of guts to work a forty five minute draw on national TV. Matches of this type can be boring due to the extended use of restholds, but the pacing here was superb. Both Sting and Flair deserve credit for more than putting on a great match. They need to be praised for their clutch performance. second, I went with Midnights vs Fantastics where the title changed hands on 4/26. Not only was it a great match action wise, the plot/story line behind it was just as good. The same match up form a month earlier is my third place vote. They went all out on the CLash of Champions as well.

RON LEMIEUX: 1) DiBiase vs Savage (MSG Cage); 2) Midnights vs Fantastics (COC I); 3) Sting vs Flair (COC I); This is always tough as i've seen so many that it's hard to remember. You can actually pick any of Savage-DiBiase & Midnights-Fantastics matches. They were for the most part all super.

JOE COUGHLIN: Flair-Sting from the first Clash show. The tension in this match was excruciating. There was a feeling that anything could happen at any given moment.

RON DOBRATZ: 2 choices. The Andre vs Hulk match for originality, what was set up and how it will always be remembered; and the Fantastics vs Midnight Express from the Clash. I think match of the year should be a series of matches so good one cannot be singled out, which fits this match up. I thought their match on TBS on 3/27 was a clearcut winner over a very good Sting vs Flair bout.

STEVE SIMS: 1)Lioness Asuka vs Chigusa Nagayo (Nagayo's separated shoulder match 8/25/88); 2) Hiroshi Hase vs Owen Hart; Midnight Express vs Fantastics (title change 4/26/88 from Chatanooga)...There were many good ones but I thought these were the best. The most underrated was Italian Stallion vs Rick Steiner on WTBS where Steiner is defending Rotunda's world TV title for Mike. Also, Adams vs Taylor at Texas stadium was an honest four star match.

JOE MANNA: 1) Revolution vs Yatsu & Tsuruta from the Brody memorial; 2) DiBiase vs Savage, MSG cage; 3) Gordy Hansen vs Revolution (shoot match)...Whenever Revolution fought Yatsu-Tsuruta, the execution, brawling and excitement would match the old Funks vs Brody Hansen matches. DiBIase vs Savage has had plenty of great matches, but i fell that their cage match from MSG was the best. While I have never seen anything quite like the Gordy-Hansen vs Revolution, the match itself was great. But what truly made it memorable was when it became real. This culminated in Revolution knocking out Hansen. When he awoke and realized what happened, it was wild. I thought that he would kill Tenyru expecially when he jumped through the ring ropes. Threatening Baba was also swell.

ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR

JIM ROSS

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Jesse Ventura
1987: Jim Ross

Jim Ross captured his second Announcer of the Year Award in a row in convincing fashion. His exposure on WTBS this year added to his cult following he had from Bill Watts' UWF. To tell the good announcers from the bad, just turn the darkness control on our tV all the way to black and try to follow the action. That's the test that separates the men on this list from one found later in the yearbook.

ANNOUNCER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Jim Ross	35½	5	3	119½
Lance Russell	10½	11	6	58½
Tony Shivone	2	7	9	29
Vince McMahon	3	6	6	27
Gorilla Monsoon	1	3	1	10
Lee Marshall	0	1	5	7
Bob Caudle	0	3	1	7
Jesse Ventura	1	1	0	5
Gordon Solie	0	1	2	4
Larry Nelson	0	1	1	3
Bill Mercer	0	1	0	2
Wakabayshi	0	1	0	2
David Crockett	0	1	0	2
Sean Mooney	0	0	1	1
Charlie Platt	0	0	1	1
joe Pedicino	0	0	1	1
Dave Brown	0	0	1	1
Ed Whalen	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

As we said before, Jim Ross' added exposure on national cable has added to his legion of fans. He took the lead with the first ballot cast and never relinquished it. Lance Russell pulled in quite a few votes from UAWF conventioneers some of who got their first look at him (or should we say, listen?). No doubt his exposure on FNN didn't hurt his solid second place finish either.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: Sit down. You may be in for a surprise. Larry Nelson is my third choice this year. He really isn't that bad as long as he doesn't have to played the scared rabbit role or the imitation teeny bopper. I'm convinced that was all Verne's doing. Second place goes to Lance Russell. I was more impressed with him than ever when we visited Memphis this year and his second place finish was almost a first. But I saved that spot for Jim Ross. Jim is always entertaining and manages to get the story across no matter what the angle by filling us in with minute details and observations. His "cute" act towards the end of the year brought him down a bit as he needs to remember that he's there to announce, not to be a comedian, but his solid work during the year guaranteed him the top spot on my list.

Garea: Jim Ross is first, by default.

Siegel: 1) Jim Ross; 2) Lance Russell; 3) Bob Caudill.

Grande: The criteria here are professionalism and how to call a match while enhancing not interfering with a viewer's enjoyment. And for that reason, I'll take Jim Ross and Lance Russell 1-2. Both are extremely competent wrestling wise and have that most valuable skill of being so caught up in the match that the broadcast becomes part of the entertainment. Ross slightly moreso than Russell and that's why he gets the nod. Tony shivone gets third by default, because in all honesty, who else is there?

READERS COMMENTS

STEVE YOHE: 1) Jim Ross; 2) Gorilla monsoon; 3) Vince mcMahon...Actually I'd take any Japanese announcer over any of them 9no I don't speak Japanese).

ERIC HOYME: Depends on the criteria used. An announcer's job is to get the wrestlers over to the home audience. Vince Mcmahon makes sure there's no one else to blame but himself if that doesn't happen. That's why I chose him above Ross this year. Granted the NWA and WWf have too different audiences, but if Ross was as successful as McMahon in his role, there would not be so many people cheering the nWA heels so loudly. You don't hear that in the WWF.

JOE COUGHLIN: McMahon...for at least sounding interested while retaining his nerd-like sense of amazement.

NAME WITHHELD #2: There is no better play by play man than jim Ross. Case closed.

STEVE SIMS: Jim Ross (1st) to me is the best. Bob Caudle (2nd) is so smooth and professional that i don't think people realize how good he is. vince always gets his key points across so well as an announcer that I think he's a letter better (even as obnoxious as he is) than people give him grades on.

GARY FISHMAN; Jim Ross is the Ric Flair of announcers as he can carry a poor match into a good one and can carry a good match into a great one.

COLOR COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR

JESSE VENTURA

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: None
1987: Jesse Ventura

Jesse takes his third award in a row for commentating as the first year this category was incorporated with Announcer of the Year.

COLOR COMMENTATOR	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Jesse Ventura	45	4	2	145
Bobby Heenan	5	16	9	56
Jim Ross	2	9	2	28
Dave Brown	0	2	6	10
Jim Cornette	0	3	2	8
Makhan Singh	1	2	0	7
Missy Hyatt	0	1	2	4
Paul E Dangerously	1	0	0	3
Bob Caudle	0	0	2	2
Dutch Mantell	0	0	2	2
Magnum TA	0	0	2	2
Tony Shivone	0	0	1	1
Larry Nelson	0	0	1	1
Ron Fuller	0	0	1	1
Lee Marshall	0	0	1	1
Superstar Billy Graham	0	0	1	1
Nick Bockwinkel	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

Jesse again had no problem capturing the award, accumulating more total points than all of his competition put together. His win last year set the record for number of points by any winner in the history of the Wrestling Forum Yearbook (265 points). The low voter turnout this year kept the Body from setting any more records this time around. He was named on 51 of the 55 ballots cast for a 93% mark.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: Bob Caudle really impressed me on some of the major NWA shows this year so he beats out Dave Brown in a close reace for third. Jim Ross was relegated to color duty during a lot of the Saturday evening show on WTBS this year so he gets the nod at second. Jesse (who else) was my top choice in this category.

Garea: Jesse Ventura. Also by default.

Siegel: 1) Jesse Ventura.

Grande: Jesse! Who are we kidding? Jim Ross did well as Tony's side kick, Nick Bockwinkel is always witty and competent doing color and Magnum TA has real potential.

READERS COMMENTS

ERIC HOYME: Since the color man and announcer are supposed to work together so well, Jess is the perfect foil for McMahon (and vice-versa). Jim Ross does well in either the role of play by play or color and he gets second. Dave Brown has been color in Memphis so long that he has that chair surgically attached. He gets third.

RON LEMIEUX: Jesse, the perenial winner. I'd watch Heenan though. The main reason I watch prime Time is to listen to "the Brain." Some hilarious stuff.

TIM HARVEY: Jesse. It's no contest, he's the best there is. It's great to hear him rag on Vince.

BILL HANRAHAN: Jesse in a walk. Don't even want to vote for anyone else.

JOE MANNA: There is nothing better than Ventura when he is on, but we have really had some great treats when Cornette has done color.

****
PROMOTER: Dan Ferren CITY: Rosena, CA
Midnight Express/Eddie Gilbert vs Guerrero Brothers
Randy Savage vs Barry Windham
Ric Flair vs Blue Blazer
Hulk Hogan vs Sting
Road Warriors, Williams, & Dibiase
vs
Jerry Lawler, Terry Gordy, Terry Funk & Stan Hansen
NOTES: Tell the guys they're in Japan, stand back and within ten minutes there won't be a stick of furnature or a fan alive in the joint!
****

ANGLE OF THE YEAR

ORIGINAL MIDNIGHT EXPRESS ATTACK CORNETTE, EATON AND LANE ON WTBS

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Orndorff turns on Hogan
1987: see feud of the year

This year we've split up the angle/feud category so that it's more definitive. Angle of the year refers to a skit that sets up a feud. It's the storyline behind the feud in other words. This year's winner involved what should be a top finisher in next year's Feud of the Year, the Midnight Express being attacked on national TV by Paul E Dangerously and the Original Midnight Express.

ANGLE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Original ME attacks Cornette & his Midnight Express	20	4	6	74
Hogan loses belt/Twin referees	5	5	3	28
Road Warrior turn	5	5	2	27
Varsity Club	5	3	1	22
Barry Windham turn	4	2	4	20
Rude tries to pick up Jake's wife	2	4	0	14
Bossman beats up Hogan	1	3	1	10
Mystic's black eye/DWB attack Pritchard	2	1	1	9
Rick Steiner turn/interviews	1	1	4	9
Lawler, Gilbert, car windshield	2	0	2	8
Midnight Express vs Tully/Arn	1	1	0	5
Jake "snakes" Andre the Giant	0	1	2	4
Gilbert & Paul E attack Willie B. Hert's son	0	1	1	3
Bad News attacks Jack tunney	0	1	1	3
Hogan, Savage, Liz love triangle	1	0	0	3
Ayala attacks Colon's wife	1	0	0	3
Rougeau turn	0	1	1	3
Ron Garvin turn heel	0	1	1	3
Hennig and Lawler destroy CWA set	1	0	0	3
DiBiase buys Hercules	1	0	0	3
Horsemen jump Luger at Clash II	1	0	0	3
Mega Powers vs Mega Bucks	1	0	0	3
Hayes & Roberts at WCCW Concert	0	1	0	2
Million Dollar Man gimmick	0	1	0	2
Warrior beats HTM at Summerslam	0	1	0	2
Ken Wayne begs Danny Davis for	0	0	2	2
Fritz heart attack	0	1	0	2
JJ hits Sting with champagne	0	1	0	2
Mr. Perfect gimmick	0	1	0	2
Lawler as heel in WCCW	0	0	1	1
Rhodes saves Magnum with baseballbat	0	0	1	1
Sullivan breaks Jimmy Garvin's leg	0	0	1	1
Liz's summerslam strip	0	1	0	2
Texas vs Tennessee	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

With the angle fresh in readers' minds, the debut of the Original Midnight Express was made memorable and had no problem capturing the top spot. From early indications going clear back to February and the Wrestling Barometer, the skit with Hogan losing the belt to Andre and the twin referees figured to be a favorite but when the WWF chose to ignore the angle, so did a lot of voters. The Varsity club had been hot all year and the gimmick itself placed high as did the resulting Steiner turn.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: I think I'm most impressed with an angle when it shocks me. When someone is creative enough to come up with something I am totally unsuspecting of, that is what I like. The Barry Windham turn was one such angle that took me somewhat by surprise. There was no lead up to it (even though he had been rumored to be turning for months) and because of the shock value alone, it gets my third place vote. Hogan losing the belt was another one that caught me off guard; not so much that he sropped the strap, but rather the bringing in of two referees to further confuse the issue. It was number two in my book. My top choice jived with what most of you thought: Midnight vs Midnight. It was just about the wildest brawl/angle we saw all year and everyone participating played their role to a T.

Garea: For sheer heat, it would appear that nothing so far this year has topped the Midnight Express vs Original Midnight Express angle.

Siegel: 1) Midnight-Midnight feud; 2) Eddie Gilbert beats up Willie B Hert's son; 3) twin Hebner referees.

READERS COMMENTS

CHARLES HODGKISSON: 1) Introduction of Paul E Dangerously's Midnight Express...The way Condrey & Rose were introduced on WTBS was a good angle, especially with Jim Ross reminding everyone that they don't even wrestle in the NWA. 2) Midnight Express getting matches signed with Tully & Arn...They build up the feud with the Express/Tully & Arn slowly. First Cornette saying you can beat anyone if you don't get a match, then the insults started to fly. The disappointment however is that this feud came to a sudden end due to factors outside the ring. 3) Ron Garvin KO's Dusty at Bash...I don't think the Garvin punch was a great angle, but it gets my vote because I enjoyed it every time I watched it.

LANCE LEVINE: 1) Varsity club... some great wrestlers coupled with hysterical comedy; 2) Paul E's debut on TBS...this should be the NWA's top feud right now; 3) Roadies turn on Sting and capturing thebbelts from midnights...just about every detail here wasflawless.

JOE COUGHLIN: I truly loved the evil twin ref bit from the NBC Prime time show. Granted, it fizzled right out, but nothing all year had me laugh harder or wonder as intently who could have dreamed it up.

RON LEMIEUX: Any doubt here? Midnights should win by a landslide. Vince's double ref angle was great since it was a shock but he should have followed up on it instead of killing

angle of the year

it, but it was memorable.

TIM HARVEY: The Sullivan-Steiner act (1st)...It was funny and it made people love Steiner and hate he varsity club. The Original Midnight Express attacking the Midnight Express (2nd). It turned Cornette babyface and made people hate Dangerously. Kevin Sullivan braking Jimmy garvin's leg (3rd). This was a great angle. I thought it was real the first time especially after seeing the slow motion replay.

ERIC HOYME: The twin referee bit was memorable, especially after seeing it in person. They really did a good job of sneaking Earl Hebner into the ring and it was stunned silence as Hogan saw the two. it came off much better in person than on TV. Inside fans liked it, though, so Vince hated it and forgot all about it.

JOE MANNA: So far, what has occurred between the Expresses has not been much ringwise (please take into account when i wrote this - mid December) but oh what an angle. having two of the best spokesmen with a free realm to act, say, and do what they want in front of the mike is just outstanding. By the way, dennis has also been giving good interviews while Randy has been making great gestures in the background. I love the Bossman-Hogan angle. Bubba truly is inspired in this role as he really comes over well. I guess the best thing was seeing him beat the crap out of Hogan.

NAME WITHHELD #1: I like stuff that comes completely out of the blue. I went with the Hogan losing his belt angle first and the Midnight Midnight war second. NO ONE knew the double ref angle was coming, not even friends of mine in the WWF. We all knew Paul E was headed to the NWA, but still, to do what they did on such short notice is tremendous. I can't really remember a third angle worthy of a vote as it was a dreary year for the most part.

PROMOTER: Joe Manna CITY: East Meadow, NY
Rockers vs Midnight Express
Big Ben Vader vs Jason the Terrible
Revolution vs Blanchard & Anderson
Ric Flair vs Randy Savage
Stan Hansen, Ted DiBiase, & Steve Williams
vs
Sting, Rick Steiner, and Bam Bam Bigelow

****

PROMOTER: Larry Lovell CITY Hillsville, VA
Ric Flair vs Rick Steamboat
Ted DiBiase vs Barry Windham¶
Owen Hart vs Tatsumi Fujinami
Midnight Express vs Blanchard/Anderson
Fantastics/Ken Wayne
vs
Badd Company/Curt Hennig

****

PROMOTER: Steve Gentry CITY: Cincnnati, OH
Brian Pillman & Owen Hart
vs
Bobby Eaton & Tiger Mask
Ric Flair vs Jerry Lawler
STEEL CAGE MATCH
Akira Maeda, Nobuhiku Takada & Mike Tyson
vs
Dusty Rhodes, Hulk Hogan & JJ Dillon
Andre the Giant vs Little Beaver
Steve Williams & Ted DiBiase
vs
Road Warriors

DUMBEST ANGLE OF THE YEAR

THE RETURN OF THE MIDNIGHT RIDER

In the category that asks the never ending question of "WHY!?!?", Dusty Rhodes and his Midnight Rider gimmick jumped on its horse and rode to the front of all the competition. Dumb? The promotion must have thought so because just a few weeks after introducing the character, they dumped it lock stock and barrel, never to be heard from again.

ANGLE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Midnight Rider angle/gimmick	18	3	4	64
OMG turns into Akeem	5	3	7	28
Islanders kidnap Mathilda	1	3	2	11
Red Rooster gimmick	2	2	0	9
Hogan loses belt/Twin refs	3	0	0	9
Andre's fear of snakes	2	1	0	8
bravo benchpress record	1	2	1	8
Hogan's War Bonnet	2	0	0	6
Tower of Doom/Sullivan-Garvins angle (NWA)	2	0	0	6
Texas vs Tennessee	1	1	1	6
Bravo's flag	1	1	0	5
Beefcake's Barber routine	1	1	0	5
Studd's Stable	0	2	0	4
Brickhouse Brown turn	0	2	0	4
Ivan Koloff turns babyface	0	2	0	4
Dusty's eye	0	2	0	4
Lawler-Von Erich unification	0	2	0	4
Rude's strip tease	1	0	0	3
Duggan's 2 x 4	1	0	0	3
Cornette in cake	1	0	0	3
DiBiase buys hercules	0	1	1	3
Babydoll blackmails dusty	0	1	1	3
Colon's wife blades	1	0	0	3
Greg Gagne changes titles without permission-AWA explanation	1	0	0	3
Brother Love	0	1	1	3
AWA-WCCW ittle situation	1	0	0	3
New Japan 12/27 card	0	1	1	3
Sheepherders as Bushwhackers	1	0	0	3
Fritz' heart attack	1	0	0	3
GLOW/POWW in Superclash	1	0	0	3
Hogan/Savage/Liz triangle	1	0	0	3
Nikita vs Perez in Miami	1	0	0	3
Steve Williams turn	1	0	0	3
Judges at Clash I	0	0	2	2
set up for Bass-JYD	0	1	0	2
Owen Hart as Blue Blazer	0	1	0	2
George Steele's Mine doll	0	1	0	2
Liz's strip at Summerslam	0	1	0	2
Murdoch turn	0	0	2	2
Tunney's interview after Brown attack	0	1	0	2
Steiner's stupid interviews	0	1	0	2

THOSE RECEIVING ONE THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR A TOTAL OF ONE POINT: Rhodes involving himself after Road Warriors turn on Sting; Flair defending title against George South on TV; Bass-Beefcake set up angle; Simmons' "Just Say No" campaign; Rhodes' threatened retirement; Adonis in the AWA; Dusty beating up Ron Garvin in a hotel room; Ron Bass' spurs; Demolition-Powers double turn; Haku's coronation; Ed Whalen thinking he's the lead babyface in Calgary.

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1986: Masked machines in WWF
1987: Ric Flair and the mannequin

VOTING NOTES

The transformation of One Man Gang in to Akeem took an early lead but was quickly overtaken by Dusty and his Midnight Rider angle. After he took the lead, there was no looking back and the only mystery remaining was how the rest of the dumb angles would stack up in the final standings.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: having judges at the first Clash was an interesting concept but it failed miserably when they split their decisions and it became just another Dusty screw job ending. It gets my third place vote. I think many people plain forgot that the Islanders kidnapped Mathilda or it would have done better. As dumb of an angle as it was, something has to be said for the morons who sent get well cards to the mutt at the request of the WWF. It takes second. My top pick was the transformation of One Man Gang into the African Dream Akeem. Not only was it Dumb with a capital D, everytime I see Gang shuckin' and jivin' into the ring, I want to throw up.

Garea: Andre gets snaked. Damien is probably the hardest worker in any of their matches and hes tranquilized.

Siegel: 1) Midnight Rider returns; 2) Andre's fear of snakes; 3) Beefcake's haircuts.

READERS COMMENTS

GARY FISHMAN: While the One Man Gang's transformation to Akeem has its humorous aspects, I find it to be a racial insult due to the fact that there are so few blacks in wrestling (and why do they always feud with each other?). McMahon has decided to pretend that a white wrestler is black instead of hiring blacks in the spirit of Amos and Andy and the minstrel shows of the beginning of the century.

RON DOBRATZ: Tying Elizabeth and Savage up with hulk Hogan as a trio. I would say that any of Dusty Rhodes' angles on TV where somebody is attacked and seriously injured (as he was blinded) then come back like nothing was done is equal to my number one choice.

dumbest angle of the year

NAME WITHHELD #2: 1) Rude's strip act; 2) Elizabeth's strip act. Does this tell you anything about the WWF?

JOE COUGHLIN: Anything with patriotic overtones. Duggan vs Bravo comes to mind. First place goes to the Akeem bit. The introductory skit with the black people dancing around a flaming garbage can was the most offensive thing i've seen in years, in wrestling or otherwise. I was amazed at what little stink it created. I thought it was revolting.

RON LEMIEUX: 1) Tower of Doom at NWA Bash; 2) Midnight Rider; 3) Roadies turn on Sting and then Dusty challenges Roadies. The tower of Doom concept was a good one, but they didn't work it well in Baltimore. World Class did a better job of it.

JOE MANNA: 1) Hogan's War helmet; 2) Kidnapping Mathilda; 3) Bady Doll's blackmail pictures. The first two are just truly embarrassing while the third never "developed."

LARRY LOVELL: Dusty Rhodes as the Midnight Rider. Thankfully this overused angle was aborted before the fine show horse the Rider rode into the arenas developed into a swayback.

TIM HARVEY: 1) Midnight Rider...Dusty sure got reinstated quickly after this bombed. 2) Akeem...I think this is funny as hell, but it's still stupid. 3) Brother Love...this gets the award for stupid, but I think it's great also. I've been told that all my favorite movies make the worst ten of the year list and now you know why.

STEVE AND LANCE'S "DREAM CARD"

Steve Sims and Lance Levine have come up with the Ultimate Dream Card as we requested. Now you can find other dream cards scattered throughout the yearbook, but theirs get this special spot although I have no idea why. The problem was, when they dream, they tend to come up with nightmares. First prize in a recent contest gave a free ticket to this card. Second place was TWO tickets to his card. Here is their combined Dream Card:

OPENING BOUT...THIRTY MINUTE TIME LIMIT (match booked as a draw by our two bookers)...

JUNK YARD DOG & GEORGE STEELE
VS
JIMMY VALIANT & BUGSY MCGRAW

For the undisputed GIANT title:

GIANT BABA VS ANDRE THE GIANT

No Brains Match...1st one who gives any evidence of brain activity loses:

ULTIMATE WARRIOR VS KEVIN VON ERICH

Texas Death Match...special referee Gino Hernandez:

MIKE VON ERICH VS DAVID VON ERICH

GREASED POLE BATTLE ROYAL...you figure it out...

PARTICIPANTS:

Dino Bravo, Tommy Rich, Steve Lombardi, the young Stallions, Pat Patterson, Terry Garvin, Colonel DeBeers with special referee Tommy Young.

FEUD OF THE YEAR

MIDNIGHT EXPRESS VS FANTASTICS

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

1986: see angle of the year
1987: Jerry Lawler vs Austin Idol/Tommy Rich

We designed this category to honor the best series of matches based on a feud. Considerations to this category should have been drawing power, heat generated and work rate. This year's winner, the mIdnight Express vs the Fantastics met all the criteria and included a few title changes back and forth.

FEUD	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Midnights vs Fantastics	19	6	4	73
Savage vs DiBiase	12	12	6	66
Sting vs Flair	2	6	3	21
Jake Roberts vs Rick Rude	4	2	2	18
Gilbert vs Lawler	3	4	1	18
Flair vs Luger	3	1	0	11
Midnights vs Tully/Arn	1	3	2	11
Lawler vs Von Erich	1	2	5	10
Danny Davis vs ken Wayne	2	1	1	9
Pritchard vs Dirty White Boy	1	2	1	8
Midnights vs Midnights	1	1	3	8
Hogan vs Bossman	2	0	0	6
Rougeaus vs Bulldogs	1	0	0	3
Hase vs Koshinaka	0	1	1	3
Footloose vs Takano/Nakano	0	2	0	2
Chris Benoit vs Johnny Smith	0	0	2	2
Gilbert vs Hert	0	0	2	2
SST vs Cox & Hayes	0	1	0	2
Hogan vs DiBiase	0	1	0	2
Mega Powers vs Mega Bucks	0	1	0	2
Tenyru/hara vs Yatsu/Tsruta	0	0	1	1
Rougeaus vs Hart Foundation	0	0	1	1
Buddy Roberts vs Michael Hays	0	0	1	1
Fujinami vs Inoki	0	0	1	1
Texas vs Tennessee	0	0	1	1
Hennig vs Lawler	0	0	1	1
Warriors vs Sting/Luger	0	0	1	1
Fujinami vs Vader	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

The Midnights-Fantastics feud did not have an easy time winning. A persistent Savage-DiBiase feud hung on for quite a while, running a close second place all the way through the voting, though never actually leading. The Midnights vs Midnights feud, though not officially underway until Starrcade on December 26 and thus not really eligible for votes, still picked up five voters along the way on the potential of the impending feud. Interesting that Hulk Hogan and Jerry Lawler were both involved in three feuds each that made the list.

STAFF PICKS

This was the first time so far in the voting that I have agreed with the top three in order. I thought that Sting and Flair's series of matches beginning with the Clash of Champions match were excellent and from all reports, continued to be viewed that way throughout the country. Savage and DiBiase battled on a slightly higher pace, wrestling twice and sometimes three months in a row in certain cities. The Midnights vs Fantastics feud was the top workrate wise and seemed to never be the same match twice. A variety of endings and added angles including title changes kept the feud fresh and the whole thing ended before it had the chance to become stale.

Garea: Sorry, but i wasn't impressed enough with any feud to make a pick here in this category.

Siegel: 1) Flair vs Sting; 2) Midnight Express vs Fantastics; 3) Randy Savage vs Ted DiBiase.

READERS COMMENTS

RON DOBRATZ: Danny Davis vs Ken Wayne. They had some great matches interviews, and twists and made this too long of a feud freash much longer than any other.

LANCE LEVINE: 1) Flair vs Luger... put people in the stands and all the matches I saw were great. 2) Savage vs DiBiase...interesting angles all year. 3) Midnight Express vs Fantastics...great action period.

JOE COUGHLIN: I go with Flair vs Luger, mostly for the way they had fans believing the belt would change in their twon. I didn't see the matches, but heard an awful lot of talk about it. Flair vs Sting second and Savage vs DiBiase hird with nothing else remotely in the ball park.

STEVE SIMS: Midnights vs Fantastics probably had the best night in/night out matches of the year with lots of genuine heat. DiBiase vs savage (2nd) carried the world's number one promotion from 3/29/88 to 9/29/88. Fujinami vs Ikoki (3rd) is of course a behinds the scenes feud and I think may sound the beginning of the end for Inoki. Rhodes vs Flair behind the scenes in late 1988 would be fourth.

TIM HARVEY: 1) Jerry Lawler vs Eddie Gilbert...I thought slamming Lawler through the windshield of a car was great. 2) Ric Flair vs Sting...I still don't know why it ended so abruptly. 3) Road Warriors vs Sting & lex Luger... even though this is just starting, I have a feeling it will be great if they carry it out. I saw a match at Battlestars in Baltimore and it was pretty good.

MARK BENNETT: Savage vs DiBiase... this was the best US wrestling in quite a while.

ERIC HOYME: So many times when wrestlers feud, they do the same match every night only in a different town. This was not the case with the Midnight Express and Fantastics. How many times did we see them wrestle each other on national TV? How many times did we see them repeat even one move? This simply was the best.

DUMBEST FEUD OF THE YEAR

BRUTUS BEEFCAKE VS RON BASS

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
None

There was certainly no absence of dumb feuds this year. The following is the list compiled by our readers as to the dumbest. One thing they most have in common is that they all left fans wondering why they bothered.

FEUD	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Beefcake vs Bass	12	4	3	47
Bravo vs Duggan	6	2	4	26
Bravo vs patera	5	4	2	25
Bass vs JYD	3	3	2	17
Russians vs Russians in NWA	3	4	0	17
Duggan vs Andre	3	3	1	16
Beefcake vs HonkyTonk Man	3	1	3	14
Warrior vs HonkyTonk Man	3	2	1	12
Texas vs Tennessee	3	1	0	11
Midnight Rider vs Tully	2	2	1	11
Power of Pain vs Bolsheviks	1	2	1	8
Hercules vs Warrior	2	1	1	9
Kerry vs lawler	2	0	0	6
Valentine vs Muraco	0	2	1	5
Nikita vs Al Perez	0	2	0	4
Graham vs Reed	1	0	1	4
Hercules vs DiBiase	1	0	0	3
Von Raschke vs Ustinov/Khan	1	0	0	3
Warriors vs Powers of Pain	0	1	1	3
Dusty vs warriors	1	0	0	3
Perez vs Dusty	0	1	0	2
Davis vs Houston	0	1	0	2
Steele vs Davis	0	1	0	2
Andre vs Savage	0	1	0	2
DeBeers vs Slaughter	0	1	0	2
Embry vs Casey	0	0	1	1
Bolsheviks vs Bulldogs	0	0	1	1
Rude vs Roberts	0	0	1	1
Bravo vs Hercules (?)	0	0	1	1
Wahoo vs Fernandez	0	0	1	1
Patera vs Bad News	0	0	1	1
Midnight vs Midnight	0	0	1	1
Beefcake vs Valentine	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

This category remained a toss up until the last ten days of voting when Bass vs beefcake rose to the top of the heap. There seems to be a trend developing with Bravo and Dusty: no one seems to like their feuds, no matter who they're with. Beefcake could well be included in that group as well.

STAFF PICKS

I took Graham vs Reed as my third choice, mainly because everyone and his brother (pardon the pun) knew that Graham was headed for retirement and starting a feud between these two on account of that is not something that is going to qualify the person who thought it up for a Rhodes scholarship. Second goes to that wonderful idea of piting the USA against our hated rivals the Canadian with the Patera-bravo feud. Titan makes a clean sweep on my ballot by pitting Brutus and Bass together at the top spot. This feud went no where, no one cared and the best they can hope for is for Bass to finally get a little hair trimmed (note: this was written before SNME in January when Beefcake SHAVED Bass' head).

Garea: Beefcake vs Bass. There shouldn't be a person on the face of the earth who doesn't ask "Why?" to this one.

Siegel: 1. Ultimate Warrior vs Honky Tonk Man; 2. Ron Bass vs Brutus Beefcake; 3. Junkyard Dog vs anyone.

READERS COMMENTS

LANCE LEVINE: 1) Bass vs Beefcake... why did this start? 2) Duggan vs Andre...genius to match up these two fine conditioned athletes. 3) Dino Bravo vs jim Duggan...does anybody care about this flag nonsense anymore?

RON DOBRATZ: Dino Bravo and anyone. Although, on the surface, the Texas vs Tennessee feud was brilliant, in reality it was dumb. First it involved two prima donnas who can't lose, and then it also involves two old men, and too often involved eight men in a one fall match.

JOE MANNA: 1) Patera vs Bravo or any other USA vs canada feud...since when are we at war with Canada? 2) Al Perez vs Nikia Koloff..wth these two the matches no only sucked, but hey were boring. 3) Tully Blanchard vs the Midnight Rider.

ERIC HOYME: Let's clarify this...is this dumb or is it worst? There's a big difference. Bravo vs Patera was not only dumb, it was also the worst. The you've got Warrior vs Honky tonk which wasn't dumb, but boy was it bad. Second place (by the way, my votes are based on dumbness and on "worstness") goes to Tully Blanchard vs Midnight Rider because it was a dumb way for dusty to push himself and the feud was so bad they cancelled it. Third place goes to Dino bravo and his ludicrous feud with jim Duggan. This is one of those feuds where the loser is not one of the wrestlers, but the fans who have to put up with this garbage.

NAME WITHHELD #1: Beefcake vs Bass was one of those feuds that will stand out for a long time...hopefully way outside my memory. Powers of Pain vs Bolsheviks is another example of a feud that has no set up and goes nowhere, the only purpose being of getting one team or wrestler over by having them beat up a "glorified jobber" team. Ain't this great stuff?

DIPSTICK OF THE YEAR

DUSTY RHODES

FOR GENERAL PRINCIPLES

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Fritz Von Erich
for general principles
1987: Dusty Rhodes
for general principles

Dusty Rhodes takes the Dipstick of the Year Award for the second year running. General principles include his booking, his push of himself, the running off of major talent and just about everything the tub of goo could do. Below is the complete list of nominations and their dippy deeds.

NOMINEE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Dusty Rhodes on general principles (GP)	7	4	5	34
Jim Crockett (1)	6	1	2	22
Jose Gonzales (2)	6	1	0	20
Von Erichs on GP	5	2	0	19
Vince Mcmahon on GP	3	4	1	18
Steve Dahl of WLUP-FM Chi. (3)	2	2	1	11
Vince McMahon for Slammies	3	0	1	10
Carlos Colon for wife balding	2	1	1	9
Carlos Colon (4)	0	3	1	7
Verne Gagne on GP	0	2	2	6
Kevin Sullivan (5)	2	0	0	6
UAWF for lost magazines	2	0	0	6
Jim Ross of the WFIA	2	0	0	6
David Crockett for gP	1	1	0	5
David Woods (6)	1	0	2	5
Dave Meltzer/Jon Gallagher (7)	1	0	0	3
Ron Simmons (8)	1	0	0	3
Downtown Bruno (9)	1	0	0	3
Kerry Von Erich-hiding foot	1	0	0	3
Vince McMahon (10)	1	0	0	3
Jim Crockett (11)	1	0	0	3
Toronto Newspaper writer (12)	1	0	0	3
Bob Brown GP	1	0	0	3
David Sammartino-Martin Gallagher (12)	1	0	0	3
Ernest Angel on GP	0	1	0	2
National Enquirer	0	1	0	2
Vince for Hulk's war bonnet	0	1	0	2
Rougeau Brothers on GP	0	1	0	2
Jon Gallagher (13)	0	1	0	2
greg Gagne on GP	0	1	0	2
Honky TonkMan (14)	0	1	0	2
JJ Dillon on GP	0	1	0	2
Steve Williams (15)	0	1	0	2
Vince McMahon (16)	0	1	0	2
Irv Munchnik (17)	0	1	0	2
NWA for Main Event reruns	0	0	1	1
FNN for wrestling schedule	0	0	1	1
Playboy Magazine (18)	0	0	1	1
Tom Zenk (19)	0	0	1	1
Brother Love on GP	0	0	1	1
Kevin Von Erich (20)	0	0	1	1
Vicotr Jovica (21)	0	0	1	1
Jamie Dundee (22)	0	0	1	1
Jim Duggan (23)	0	0	1	1

KEY TO REASONS

(1) For not firing Dusty...(2) for allegedly murdering Brody...(3) for making fun of Brody's obituary on the radio...(4) for pushing Gonzalez after Brody's death...(5) for his shoot interview about Nikita and his fiancee's disease...(6) for firing Eddie gilbert...(7) For exposing Kerry's amputated foot...(8) for telling kids to say "No" to drugs but going on "Leraning the Ropes"and saying it was okay for kids to drink every once in a while. (9) for getting drunk at UAWF convention ...(10)for putting the 1st Royal Rumble opposite the NWA PPV Stampede...(11) For allowing John Ayers near a microphone...(12) for their incident which cost the town of Watertown NY any future wrestling shows...(13) for losing Lou Thesz at the airport...(14) for holding IC title so long...(15) for his drug bust at the airport...(16) for not acknowledging Adrian Adonis' death... (17) for writing Penthouse article on the Von Erichs...(18) for screwing up the Medussa Micelli layout...(19) for messing up his career by walking out on WWF and AWA...(20) for screwing up his brain with the oriental tool... (21) for his part in the Brody murder whatever that might have been...(22) for being an obnoxious little brat... (23)for sticking his tongue out during the national anthem...

VOTING NOTES

It seems that everyone had their favorite to pick on this year with no real runaway. Dusty got enough votes on other things combined with Jim Crockett that he could have been considered a runaway. We wish he had.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: I scored a zero here with none of my picks being anyone else's. Third place goes to Vince for putting together the most ridiculous show of hte year which we affectionately termed the Shammies. Second goes to Ernest Angel for his blasphemous character and first went to Rick Rude for his tights with Cheryl Roberts airbrushed on them. It wouldn't have been so bad if he'd left them with her on the back but when he put them on the front with a bulge right where her mouth was was a little much for me to take.

Garea: Fritz Von Erich. Maybe we should name this award after him.

Siegel: 1. Dusty rhodes for hogging the spotlight; 2. Vince McMahon for ruthless business tactics; 3. Jim Crockett on general principles.

```
**************************************************
*  PROMOTER: Jack Ortizano  CITY: Athens, OH
*                  SHOOT MATCH
*              Ric Flair vs Hulk Hogan
*              Ric Flair vs Owen Hart
*        Guerreros vs  Fantastics & Owen Hart
*       Jose Gonzales in Japanese battle royal
*                  LOSER MUST RETIRE
*              Junkyard Dog vs Hulk Hogan
**************************************************
```

DON G SMITH: As I mulled over he worst angled, dubest feuds and most disgusting events, i realized that 90% of them were hatched in Vince McMahon's mind. He might make money, but I still say he hurts wrestling in the long run.

RON DOBRATZ: Vince did less with more talent and did it with less good taste than anyone else not committed to an institution. 2nd, gagne and 3rd Virgil Runnels.

GARY FISHMAN: 1) Jim Crockett for killing New York; 2) Vince McMahon for shows with no workrate; 3) Kevin Von Erich on general principles (AKA no principles). Crockett came to New York with a hot show, a good TV time slot and much fanfare. Two months later due to stupidity, bad booking and poor management, he has become the laughing stock of three states.

NANNETTE JOHNSON: 'Perhaps this is personal, but I feel it is a tie between David sammartino and Martin Gallagher for the confrontation in Watertown. i know these things do happen sometimes at wrestling but wrestling was the only profitable event that the Disabled Person's Action Organization has ever sponsored, as they always lose money on the concerts they have held. Both the DPAO and Watertown high School are reluctant to allow wrestling back in our city after Sammartino's conduct and a lot of people are being hurt.

STEVE YOHE; Jose Gonzales. It was between two people this year. Gonzales and Jon Gallagher. One murdered the biggest wrestling star in the world and the other lost Lou Thesz at an airport. Very close.

LIRAN FRIEDMAN; Dusty for letting John Ayers near a TV camera.

TIM HARVEY: 1) David Woods...Eddie Gilbert was the best thing that ever happened to the CWF and this moron fires him. Even Vince or Jim Crockett wouldn't be that stupid despite both of their lacks of wrestling sense. 2) Dusty Rhodes...having the name Virgil Runnels is bad enough, but having a body like that is even worse. Dusty wins for being plain Dusty and i propose this award be called the Dusty Rhodes Dipstick of the Year Award. 3) JIm Crockett because he is (was) stupid enough o let Dusty run the show and have david on TV.

JOE COUGHLIN: I hate to pick on people when they're down, but what has Fritz contributed this year?

JOE MANNA: 1) Jose Gonzales; 20 Carlos Colon; 3) Victor Jovica. Gonzales is self explainatory while Colon and Jovica are the main figures involved in Jose's case. There seems to be something very fishy going on. Carlos also rates due to having his wife blade.

LARRY LOVELL: I'm gong with Jim Crockett and Dusty for first and second because they could have turned things around to their advantage and made money with the promotion instead of having to sell it to Ted Turner. The talent was there but wasn't used to full advantage by dusty while Crockett didn't seem to care. My third choice goes to mcmahon for ignoring the death of Adrian Adonis on his tV shows.

RON LEMIEUX: The Von Erichs. Reasons? Fritz' fake heart attack last December, Kevin for not protecting his health, kerry for that stupid divorce speech at the SPortatorium and all for general principles.

BEST BABYFACE OF THE YEAR

HULK HOGAN
STING
TIE

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Hulk Hogan
1987: Hulk Hogan

We requested votes for the wrestler who generates the most heat as a babyface and who comes across as the ultimate "good guy." For the first time in Wrestling Forum history, we have a tie between Hulk Hogan and Sting for the top spot.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Hulk Hogan	15	11	5	72
Sting	12	12	12	72
Randy Savage	10½	12	9	64½
Ultimate Warrior	1	3	4	13
Jerry Lawler	3	0	2	11
Rick Steiner	2	2	1	11
Elizabeth	3½	0	0	10½
Akira Maeda	1	2	0	7
Fantastics	0	2	2	6
Owen Hart	0	1	3	5
Jeff Jarrett	1	1	0	5
Chigusa Nagayo	1	1	0	5
Bret hart	1	0	1	4
Jim Cornette	1	0	1	4
Jim Duggan	1	0	0	3
Derrick Dukes	1	0	0	3
Kerry Von Erich	1	0	0	3
Lex Luger	0	0	2	2
Dusty Rhodes	0	0	1	1
Ron Garvin	0	0	1	1
Brian Pillman	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

It's quite an accomplishment for someone to unseat Hulk Hogan, even if he did just tie him for this year's win. The voting was close throughout the balloting with Hogan, Sting and Savage changing position for the lead several times. Hogan and sting were just points ahead of Savage heading into the final week, tied for the lead. They remained tied through the final week with each getting the same number of points through that time period.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: Granted, I've been hard on the ultimate Warrior in this yearbook and throughout the entire year, but give the man his due. He is cheered by the masses and is what this category is all about. I gave him my third place vote. Number two goes to Sting who, while held back by the promotion somewhat, was the NWA's number one babyface even when he wasn't pushed as such. When the NWA needed to turn the Road warriors heel, they went to the only man who could have gotten them over as such and that was Sting. My first choice is a little offbeat in a sense, but it's the person the promotion made their number one babyface whether they liked it or not. My top choice is Elizabeth. Savage is over as the lead babyface in the WWF but he's over because of Liz. When she first came to the WWF, she was the business-women of the year type. Now she's constantly the damsel in distress. How could I vote for anyone else?

Garea: Hulk Hogan. Even by his absence, his presence in the WWF was felt.

Siegel: 1. Sting; 2. Hulk Hogan; 3. Lex Luger

READERS COMMENTS

JOE MANNA: 1) Sting; 2) Savage; 3) Ron Garvin...I'm sure you can understand the first two picks but I guess I should explain Ron Garvin. Anyone that can make fools out of Dusty and Verne Gagne deserves to be best babyface.

JOE COUGHLIN: I like Sting and sadly, Ultimate Warrior for his completely inexplicable popularity.

ERIC HOYME: Hogan's four month sabadical didn't take one decibel from his popularity. I'm going with Dingbat second due to his hoganesque receptions at arenas. If you figure out why, call me collect. I'm not sleeping nights trying to figure out why they fans love him. And some people say there are no true marks left. Ha! Savage is good enough for a third place finish.

STEVE SIMS: As I have said so often, I think it's Elizabeth, not Savage, who is the real WWF champion; hogan (2) is still Hogan; Sting (3) may win this next year if he gets a title and any sort of a push.

LANCE LEVINE: 1) Savage & Elizabeth; 2) Warrior...you gotta respect the cheers if not the man...3) Sting... gotta respect the cheers and the man.

```
**************************************************
* PROMOTER: Randy Smith CITY: Sinking Spring, PA
*         Midnight Express vs Footloose
*            Owen Hart vs Tiger Mask
*          Ric Flair vs Terry Taylor
*         Dynamite Kid vs Arn Anderson
*           Ted DiBiae vs Pat Tanaka
**************************************************
* PROMOTER: Ron Lemieux  CITY: Vernon, CT
*          Terry Gordy vs Jerry Lawler
*       Owen Hart vs Original Tiger Mask
*           Steiner, Sting & Gilbert
*                    vs
*          Fantastics & Bobby Eaton
*         Barry Windham vs Randy Savage
*           Ric Flair vs Ted DiBiase
* Notes:  Match goes 37:26 and both are counted
* out in the ring on thier backs.  Both are cut.
* The match was a showcase for both as all their
* arsonal was used.
**************************************************
* PROMOTER: Marc Aronin  CITY: Denver, CO
*       Steamboat/Savage vs Road Warriors
*  Steve Williams, David Shultz, & Masa Saito
*                    vs
*                 Greg Gagne
*      DiBiase/Windham vs Fujinami & Sting
*                Flair vs Hogan
*             Rougeaus vs Bulldogs
* Notes:  Hogan does a clean job.  Last match
* is booked as a shoot.
```

BEST HEEL OF THE YEAR

TED DIBIASE

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Michael Hayes
1987: Terry Taylor

The best of the bad are listed below. Being a heel today isn't what it used to be. In the old days, the fans booed who they were supposed to and cheered almost on cue. in today's society of the anti-hero, it's hard to come across as being totally hated. Our cast assembled below did their best.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Ted DiBiase	22	8	5	87
Eddie Gilbert	7	8	2	39
Ric Flair	6	8	1	35
Barry Windham	3	6	7	28
Rick Rude	3	4	6	23
Andre the Giant	2	5	3	19
Honky Tonk Man	1	3	1	10
Kevin Sullivan	1	1	0	5
Robert Fuller	1	0	2	5
Road Warriors	0	1	3	5
Bossman	1	0	2	5
Jacques Rougeau	1	0	1	4
Jerry Lawler	0	1	2	4
Abdullah the Butcher	1	0	1	4
Phil Hickerson	1	0	1	4
Dump matsumoto	1	0	0	3
Terry Taylor	1	0	0	3
Bad News Brown	1	0	0	3
Arn Anderson	1	0	0	3
Carlos Colon	1	0	0	3
Curt Hennig	0	0	2	2
Colonel DeBeers	0	1	0	2
Greg Gagne	0	1	0	2
Tommy Rich	0	0	2	2
Russian Assassin #1	0	1	0	2
Larry Cameron	0	0	1	1
Ron Bass	0	0	1	1
Ashura Hara	0	0	1	1
Buddy Roberts	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

Another category that turned out to be a runaway despite my early predictions. DiBiase got more votes in the first week than Eddie Gilbert managed to amass in the total competition. The race for second place turned out to be the more interesting with the top five remaining wrestlers battling it out over the six week period. Gilbert took second, based on the success of his character in Continental and may have done better overall had he not gone to the nWA as a babyface. Another interesting note is that last year's winner with 130 points, Terry Taylor, finished this year with 127 points less, even though he remained a heel throughout the entire year.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: My third choice may bave been a little biased (a little?). It was Larry Cameron who worked the independents this year. I managed him at a trade show in Chicago last January and figured the heat he generated was simply due to the audience we had. I was wrong. I saw him on two other occasions during the year when the audience had no clue as to who he was and in fact, they cheered him when he came out. With in five minutes he had every single person in the building hating his guts. That is what being a heel is all about. Second goes to Barry Windham. After seeing his remarkable transformation from all american boy next door to what he is today make me think he missed his calling in the early days of his career. Of course, without that image he wouldn't be nearly as good of a heel. First this year goes to Eddie Gilbert. Eddie was the booker in Continental which made his heel push all that more easy to do, but still, after seeing his babyface role in the NWA, it makes me realize how effective he was as a heel. I didn't vote for DiBiase this year, because he didn't do any really despicable things this year, like kicking a ball out of his valet's kid's hands. THAT was classic heel stuff.

Garea: Carlos Colon on real life principles.

Siegel: 1. Ted DiBiase; 2. Ric Flair; 3. Arn Anderson.

READERS COMMENTS

MARK BENNETT: DiBiase...he's dying out though.

JOE COUGHLIN: I go with Ted DiBiase, with Flair a distant second only because so many fans don't buy his heel act and like him anyway. Honky Tonk third for slugging Liz, but I hope rude gets a lot of votes as well.

RON LEMIEUX: Gilbert wins it for his work in Continental and Memphis. (2nd) - Look around an arena during an Andre entrance. You won't find one person cheering him. (3rd) - Windhman's a surprisingly great heel.

TIM HARVEY: Eddie gilbert...he's the ultimate heel, which makes me wonder how and why he's an NWA babyface.

DON G. SMITH: Andre's effectiveness as a heel is overlooked by 'inside fans" because his ring skills are down.

GARY FISHMAN: As a heel, Eddie gilbert was my favorite wrestler. As a babyface in the NWA, he has turned to mush. Still, his work in the CWA and CWF this year showed him to be the best heel since Terry Funk in the 70's.

STEVE SIMS: DiBiase (1st) is just great in his role of "What-Vince-McMahon's-Gimmick-Would-Be-If-vince-Actually-wrestled." people here in Chicago genuinely hate him 9and Andre 7 Virgil & Heenan0. Gilber (2nd) carried two promotions as lead heel; Lalwer (3rd) carried one (WCCW) after August and may be carrying two next year.¶

WORST WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

ULTIMATE WARRIOR

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Mike Von Erich
1987: Junkyard Dog

The dubious honor of being named Worst Wrestler of the Year usually goes to someone who is not only a terrible worker but also one who is pushed way beyond reason. This year was no exception.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Ultimate Warrior	17½	2	6	62½
Junkyard Dog	12	10	6	62
Andre the Giant	8	6	3	39
Ken Patera	3½	3	1	17½
Dusty Rhodes	3	1	1	12
Dino Bravo	0	5	0	10
Danny Davis (WWF)	2	0	2	8
Brutus Beefcake	0	2	3	7
Nikita Koloff	1	1	1	6
George Steele	0	2	1	5
Rocky Mountain Thunder	1	1	0	5
Hulk Hogan	1	1	0	5
HonkyTonk Man	0	1	2	4
Jimmy Valiant	½	0	2	3½
Tom Magee	1	0	0	3
Jim Duggan	1	0	0	3
Lex Luger	0	1	1	3
Jose Gonzales	1	0	0	3
Greg Gagne	0	1	1	3
Butch Reed	1	0	0	3
Warlord	1	0	0	3
Nicolai Volkoff	½	0	1	2½
Don Muraco	0	1	0	2
Soldat Ustinov	0	1	0	2
Kevin Von Erich	0	0	2	2
Sting	0	1	0	2
Ray Candy	0	1	0	2
Baron Von Raschke	0	1	0	2
Bugsy McGraw	0	1	0	2
Sgt Slaughter	0	0	1	1
Outback Jack	0	0	1	1
Hillbilly Jim	0	0	1	1
Akeem	0	0	1	1
Grizzly Boone	0	0	1	1
Wahoo McDaniel	0	0	1	1
Bad News Brown	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

In what would prove to be the second closest race, Ultimate Warrior pulled out the win on the last day of balloting. There were those who instead of voting for three choices only voted for one. In two cases, people voted for a tie between two wrestlers for first place with no votes for second or third. In those cases, one and one half points (half of the regular first place point value) was given to those wrestlers. One the final day of balloting, Ultimate Warrior tallied two additional first place votes to vault him past last year's winner, Junkyard Dog.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: Ultimate Warrior gained my third place vote here. Anyone who is dumb enough to run to the ring then blow up before ever getting in no only qualifies for a vote in worst wrestler, he also qualifies for the most likely to need a brain transplant. Second place goes to Rocky Mountain Thunder. I realize he's a rookie, but he wrestles so bad it seems like it must have taken years for him to learn that little. First place goes to the man with the most feeble punches in the sport, Ken patera. I saw him a few times live this year and believe me, it looks worse in person than it ever could on TV.

Garea: Junk yard Dog. I don't even consider Ultimate Warrior to be a wrestler.

Siegel: 1. Junk Yard Dog; 2. Ultimate Warrior; 3. Andre the Giant.

Grande: A tie; Nicolai Volkoff, Andre the Giant, Ultimate warrior, Jukyard Dog, George Steele, Dino Bravo, ivan Putski...

READERS COMMENTS

JOE MANNA: 1) Warlord; 2) Ultimate warrior; 3) Junkyard Dog...The Warlord and Warrior are really going to jurt someone someday. But wait...maybe Vince could use his to his advantage. If he is ever unhappy with any wrestlers, instead of having someone shoot on them, he could have them wrestle the wrlord and the Warrior. Boy would it be brutal.

TIM HARVEY: 1) Junkyard Dog...he sucked in a league where you need no skill whatsoever. That says it all.

NAME WITHHELD #2: I'll take the Ultimate Warrior over Junkyard Dog here, just because of the push he's getting. No wrestler with that little wrestling skill and so pumped full of juice should get even a tenth of the push Helwig is getting. This says more of the WWF than any other thing they've done. They stress the gimmick over the skill. It might not be so bad if he'd take the time to learn at least one wrestling maneuver, but he seems to thing that running to the ring, shaking the ropes then standing there like a statue before press slamming an opponent constitues wrestling. I've never even seem him try a side headlock! Junk Yard Dog at least pretends to wrestle, and he does know how, it's just that he doesn't.

RON LEMIEUX: 1) Ultimate Warrior; 2) Don Muraco; 3) Danny Davis...Notice ...all WWF guys. I no longer consider JYD a wrestler which is why he isn't on this list. By the way, if I was Danny Davis of the CWF, i think I'd sue the other one.

DON G. SMITH: Butch Reed...or about twelve other Titan fenceposts.

editor's note: officially, Sean's votes in this category did not count.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

JIM CORNETTE

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Jim Cornette
1987: Jim Cornette

Jim Cornette captured his third win in as many years in the manager of the year category. His competition this year became a little tougher than in year's past, but a trifecta is nonetheless impressive.

MANAGER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Jim Cornette	42	5	1	137
Paul E Dangerously	5	33	3	84
Bobby Heenan	4	4	24	44
Diamond Dallas Page	1	3	1	10
Sylvester T. Eccentric**	0	2	0	4
Jimmy Hart	0	1	1	3
Slick	0	0	3	3
Buddy Roberts	1	0	0	3
J. J. Dillon	0	0	3	3
Kevin Sullivan	1	0	0	3
Elizabeth	1	0	0	3
Ernest Angel	0	0	2	2
Downtown Bruno	0	0	2	2
Medussa Micelli	0	0	1	1
Chicky Starr	0	0	1	1
Gary Hart	0	0	1	1

**Sylvester was the manager Gallagher played at the pharmaceutical convention in January.

VOTING NOTES

How bout that! I do one show and outpoll people like JJ, Jimmy Hart and Slick. Thanks for the votes, Mom and Dad...The most interesting part of this whole category was the top three finishers. They were named in that order on nineteen different ballots. I guess that says something about the current crop of managers in the business...that being there's really only three.

STAFF PICKS

And, NO, I didn't vote for myself. I'm among the nineteen who saw fit to name the top three in order of finish. Heenan gets the number three spot because no one else really did anything to impress me. Paul E is number two for showing his versatility after going to the NWA to battle with Jim Cornette. There is quite a distance between the number two and three managers. The distance between Dangerously and Cornette is closing, but as of right now it's the same distance that's between the WWF and the NWA. Cornette also got to show his versatility by playing both the heel and the babyface manager. Wrestling needs babyface managers like goldfish need tennis shoes, but somehow Mr. Cornette managed to pull it off. That in itself qualifies him for the top spot.

Garea: Jim Cornette, though they are turning him into a simp.

Siegel: 1. Jim Cornette; 2. Paul E. Dangerously; 3. Diamond Dallas Page.

Grande: Ditto to the above.

READERS COMMENTS

NAME WITHHELD #2: I saw the tape of you doing your manager job. Cornette has nothing to worry about. You get second only because you had guts enough to call pharmaceutical salesmen "Drug Pushers"!!!

LIRAN FRIEDMAN: The master (Cornette) reigns supreme once again and I can't see anyone dethroning him in this decade. Dangerously and Heenan finish a distant second and third.

GARY FISHMAN: 1) Paul E. 2) Cornette, 3) Chicky Starr...Cornette was my favorite till I saw Paul E. live. Still it is, in my opinion, a dead heat. Paul E semms just a tad hungrier.

LANCE LEVINE: 1) Dangerously...for acual ring work, he beat out Cornette this year. 2) Cornette...no sin to be number two behind Paul E....3) Heenan...miles behind, but still takes more bumps than most WWF wrestlers.

```
**************************************************
* PROMOTER: Nels Looser  CITY: White Bear Lake MN
*              Ric Flair vs Owen Hart
*            Randy Savage vs Tiger Mask
*   Bobby Fulton, Bobby Eaton, & Ricky Morton
*                        vs
*   Tommy Rogers, Stan Lane, and Robert Gibson
*                   CAGE MATCH
*         (with Akira Maeda holding the key)
*             Antonio Inoki vs Giant Baba
*winner gets control of all Japanese wrestling
*                  HANDICAP MATCH
*           Road Warriors vs Dusty Rhodes
* NOTES: Bunkhouse match in a cage with flame
* surrounding the ring and randomly placed land
* mines on the side that Dusty is on with
* sharp shooters aiming at Dusty in case he de-
* cides to put himself over.
*
* PROMOTER:  Joe Coughlin CITY: Boston, MA
*              Brainbusters vs Rockers
*              Owen Hart vs Ric Flair
*             Bret Hart vs Ted DiBiase
*               Jumping bomb Angels
*                        vs
*          Dump Matsumoto & Lioness Asuka
*              barry windham vs Sting
**************************************************
* PROMOTER: Walt Marshall CITY: Morrisville, PA
*            Bob Backlund vs Ted DiBiase
*            Randy Savage vs Ric Flair
*             Hulk Hoan vs Terry Gordy
*            Barry Windham vs Owen Hart
*               Jimmy Snuka vs Sting
**************************************************
* PROMOTER: Steve Sims CITY: Lisle, IL
*    Ric Flair, Randy Savage, & Ted DiBiase
*                        vs
*            the Rockers & Curt Hennig
*          Road Warriors vs Tenyru & Hara
*           Freebirds vs SST & Tonga Kid
*          Hiroshi Hase & Keiichi Yamada
*                        vs
*              Bret & Owen Hart
*           Barry Windham & Sam HOuston
*                        vs
*          Brad Armstrong & Terry Taylor
```

MOST DISGUSTING EVENT

THE MURDER OF BRUISER BRODY

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Adrian Adonis' gay act
1987: Fritz' handling of mike's death

Describing something that is disgusting depends on the individual attempting the description. Morals enter in to the picture along with other factors such as the incidents leading up to the event in question. Generally, a disgusting event is something that makes you shake your head and be a little ashamed that you are a wrestling fan.

EVENT	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Brody's murder	11	1	0	35
Colon's handling of Jose Gonzales afterwards	8	2	3	31
Fritz' heart attack	7	0	0	21
Vince ignoring Adonis' death	2	6	0	18
Midnight Rider saves Magnum	3	1	1	12
Liz strip at Summerslam	3	1	1	12
Colon's wife blades	1	3	2	11
Rude's strip at slammies	3	0	0	9
Rude awakening (kiss)	1	1	1	6
Warrior as IC champion	1	1	1	6
Rude's airbrush tights	1	1	0	5
Dusty's self push	1	0	1	4
Vince hiding Owen	1	0	1	4
Beefcake's haircuts	1	0	1	4
lingerie battle royal	0	1	2	4
Brickhouse receives watermellon from Fuller	1	0	0	3
no attention to McKigney's death	1	0	0	3
HTM's title reign	1	0	0	3
Rooster gimmick	1	0	0	3
Bossman handcuffs opponents	1	0	0	3
Bugsy McGraw eats live cockroach on TV	1	0	0	3
Andre's heart attack	1	0	0	3
Sheepherders to WWF	1	0	0	3
Jim Duggan	1	0	0	3
FNN exploits Brody death	0	0	2	2
Ultimate warrior's "Just Say NO" ad in WWF mag	0	1	0	2
Akeem skit	0	1	0	2
Hart Foundation not being on NBC live special	0	1	0	2
Adonis' death	0	1	0	2
Jake pulls off Rude's tights	0	1	0	2
letters to Observer saying nothing good about wrestling after Brody's death	0	1	0	2
Adonis being remembered as a gay	0	1	0	2
Dibisae buys Hercules	0	1	0	2
Andre wrestling	0	1	0	2
Dusty gets eye poked out	0	1	0	2
Slammies	0	1	0	2
Steiner's interviews	0	1	0	2
NWA's putting 1st Clash up against WMIV	0	1	0	2
Chants of "retardo"	0	1	0	2

THOSE EVENTS RECEIVING ONE THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR ONE TOTAL POINT: Gorilla Monsoon; Cactus Jack's balde job during UAWF convention; Flair-Luger Bash ending; Rhodes' booking; Gallagher losing Lou Thesz at airport; Greg Gagne's interviews; Warrior vs HTM at Summerslam; major promotions ignoring Brody's death; AWA no shows; NWA making wrestlers fly out of Atlanta.

VOTING NOTES

Bruiser Brody's murder had a lot to do with the balloting with the top two spots going to it or related matters. Voters were split on whether the actual murder or the way Jose Gonzalez was handled by boss Carlos Colon was more disgusting. Both event led at several points during the voting with the murder taking the final tally in the end. Fritz' heart attack from the Christmas show in 1987 (which qualified for this year's balloting) was well remembered and showed a strong third.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: For me, it's pick on Rick Rude time. That in a minute. My third choice was Colon's handling of Gonzalez. Allowing him to work shows before answering questions by the police was unexcusable. Colon seems to show more concern for Gonzalez' fate than the future of Brody's survivors. Second place goes to the air brush portraits on Rick Rude's tights. Family entertainment? I think not. He also takes my top spot for his performance at the Slammies. The strip act was uncalled for and caused some local stations to pull the broadcast off the air immediately. Good for them.

Garea: Colon's wife blading herself was my pick in this category.

Siegel: 1, 2, & 3: Brody's murder.

READERS COMMENTS

LARRY LOVELL: 1) Andre's fake heart attack on SNME...it drew good heat for this feud and Andre did some convincing acting but mostly I disliked the thing because i hate to see wrestlers who contributed a lot to their profession such as Andre or Harley race mae to look like fools on TV.

LIRAN FRIEDMAN: Bugsy McGraw vs ??? in a loser eats the cockroach match. I didn't see it live or on TVbut ths stands out as being the most revolting concept for a gimmick match and a desperate attempt by a dying promotion to generate some interest.

RON DOBRATZ: Jim Duggan...anything that disgusts me is the qualification. Everything about Duggan disgusts me. his changed character from the UWF. His popularity. His return after haveing the poor sense to be riding with his 'hated" opponent and being caught with drugs. His use of a 2 x 4 as a weapon and equalizer. his phony "Sgt Slaughter-patriotism" routine. His singing of the national anthem as he ches on his tongue.

most disgusting event

TIM HARVEY (on his number two pick): The fact that most people remember Adrian Adonis as a homosexual. I wish I could kick Vince in the ass for the portrayal and then not even mentioning his death.

RON LEMIEUX: 1) Carlos Colon letting Jose Gonzales back on TV and in the promotion; 20 McMahon not acknowledging Adonis' death. 3) Cactus Jack Foley's blade job at UAWF show in Memphis...The whole Brody-Gonzales mess is disgusting. I can't help but think Colon was involved in the murder...why else would he side with Gonzales and let thick whacko back in World Wrestling Council? And don't tell me he didn't do it or it was self defense. Baloney!

DON G SMITH: Elizabeth strips to save Savage and Hogan in tag team match...If disgusting equals embarrassing, the runners up are the Brother love segments, the coronation of Haku, jake's snake tossed on Andre, the twin referees scam and about every other angle concocted by Vince McMahon. Oh yes, add the Slammies.

Reader Awards

Below is a list of the awards created by our readers and their recipients. Readers are credited with their creation in parenthesis.

THE JIMMY HART RED UNDIES AWARD - Rick Rude (STEVE BRYANT)
THE "I CAN'T WRESTLE, BUT I CAN CHOKE" AWARD - Andre the Giant (Steve Bryant)
JIMMY GARVIN LOOK-A-LIKE AWARD - BILL APTER (John Lanigan)
DEVELOPING FEUD OF THE YEAR - JON GALLAGHER VS JIM ROSS (John Lanigan)
BEST PERFORMANCE EVER BY A GIANT NAMED ANDRE - ANDRE THE GIANT for Saturday Night's Main Event where he did a clean job for Superstar Damien (Marc Aronin)
MOST WASTED TALENT - GREG VALENTINE (Mark Bennett)
MOST PREDICTABLE SHOW - WWF SUPERSTARS & WWF CHALLENGE (tie)...squash, update, squash, event center, squash, squash, Brother Love, squash, interview, yawn (mark Bennett)
SORRY, MY CALCULATOR'S BATTERIES ARE LOW AWARD - Vince McMahon (Mark Bennett)
BEST IMPERSONATION OF THE STAY-PUFF MARSHMALLOW MAN - ULTIMATE WARRIOR (Mike Miller)
BEST HOT DOG VENDOR AS AN ANNOUNCER - DAVID CROCKETT (Mike Miller)
BEST JOB OF SUPPORTING BEACHED WHALES BY A WRESTLING PROMOTION - NWA FOR GIVING JOBS TO DUSTY RHODES, BAM BAM BIGELOW, OLIVER HUMPERDINK, RAY CANDY, GRIZZLY BOONE, ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER, (Mike Miller)
MORE DISPLAY OF FACE PAINT THAN A CHOCTAW INDIAN TRIBE - WWF FOR MR. FUJI, DEMOLITION, POWERS OF PAIN, ULTIMATE WARRIOR (Mike Miller)
BEST IMPERSONATION BY A WRESTLER OF A THIRD BASE COACH GIVING A STEAL SIGN - LEX LUGER who never fails to wave his arms across the screen at least 30 times per interview (Mike Miller)
BOBBY HEENAN CAN YOU TEACH ME TO WRESTLE AWARD - TERRY TAYLOR (Chris Siggia)
I DON'T GIVE A CRAP WHAT I SAY AWARD - PAUL E. DANGEROSLY (Chris Siggia)
DO I HAVE BOTH BELTS YET AWARD - KERRY VON ERICH, JERRY LAWLER (tie) (Chris Siggia)
JOHN DEREK MEMORIAL AWARD FOR WIFE EXPLOITATION - JAKE ROBERTS FOR ALLOWING HIS WIFE'S FACE TO BE COPIED ON RICK RUDE'S TIGHTS (Larry Lovell)
THE I THOUGHT THE WWF WASN'T INTO NAME CALLING AWARD - HACKSAW JIM DUGGAN for saying he doesn't have diamond rings, gold chains and doesn't ride in limousines (Tim harvey)
GORILLA MONSOON CLICHÉ AWARD - JIM ROSS who at every major event says, "you can cut the electricity with a knife!" (Tim harvey)
WINFREY WARRIORS TAG TEAM AWARD - DUSTY RHODES & BUDDY ROSE who would make a fine tag team in the tradition of Ophra Winfrey (Tim Harvey)
BEN JOHNSON AWARD - Ultimate Warrior (Tim harvey)

BEST TV SHOW OF THE YEAR

CLASH OF CHAMPIONS SERIES ON WTBS

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Bill Watts Presents the UWF
1987: NBC's Saturday Night's Main Event

Included in this category is the super productions of the WWF (SNME) and Clash Series (WTBS). We included them because of the frequency, a bad show can drastically effect the good ones. With that in mind, here is the list of TV shows, regular series and all, that made out list.

TV SHOW	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Clash of Champions (WTBS)	18	6	2	68
Sat. Night Man Event	12	12	1	61
CWA Live Memphis show	6	5	5	33
WWF Superstars	5	6	5	32
WTBS Saturday evening show	3	6	3	24
Continental	3	1	3	14
New Japan	3	1	2	13
Prime Time (USA Network)	0	2	6	10
NWA Main Event (WTBS)	2	1	2	10
NWA World Wide (syndicated)	0	3	0	6
All Japan	0	1	1	3
Japanese Women	1	0	0	3
Legends of World Class	0	0	2	2
NBC Prime time Special (Feb)	0	1	0	2
WWF Challenge	0	0	1	1
AWA	0	0	1	1
GLOW	0	0	1	1
World Class	0	0	1	1
Pro Wrestling this Week	0	0	1	1
Stampede	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

In what some would consider an upset, the WTBS Clash of Champions specials upset the NBC entry of Saturday Night's Main Event. The NBC show led throughout the voting until the last two days. Clash of Champions received five first place votes in the last two days to pull out the victory. Not one of the ballots came from Atlanta or Charlotte. UAWF conventioneers were responsible for quite a bit of the support sustained by the CWA Memphis show after viewing the show from a first hand basis.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: I was one of those who was impressed enough with the Memphis offering that I chose it third over Saturday Night's Main Event. SNME has had a couple of stinkers recently that hurt its chances with me. With something that's supposed to be that special and only done every two to three months, I expect more out of it and am harsher when it comes to judging that. Memphis on the other hand comes off without an incident and it's done LIVE every week. I went with the Clash series second because they were generally good and also done live and anything done live has always got a chance of something going very wrong. First goes to the WWF Superstars show which is consistantly well done, gives us a nice variety of angles (however dumb they may be) and gets the job done of selling live shows. For that alone, it deserves the number one spot.

Garea: None. If you've seen one, you've seen them all.

Siegel: 1. Clash of Champions Series; 2. Saturday Night's Main Event

Grande: 3) memphis; 2) WWF Superstars; 1) New Japan... Why these three? Combine Memphis skits, WWF glitz and new Japan's greatest hits and you've got yourself an A+ TV show. Look for the nWA to re-emerge in 89.

READERS COMMENTS

ERIC HOYME: When you allow the SNME to be included with Clash and the regular weekly broadcasts, that's really not fair. But since you did, I went with WTBS's Clash shows first with SNME trailing right behind. I'll take the WWF Superstars 3rd. Every one of these shows do exactly what they are intended to do and they always seem to do it without giving away the store. There are a lot of good ones out there like Memphis and Continetal along with the NWA Main Event on Sunday nights that really deserve mentioning. Sometimes we think that they don't put a lot into these shows, but those people who say that should be subjected o at least one hour a week of the smaller independents. That would cure their problems.

LANCE LEVINE: 1)Clash...all three of my top matches came from this gem; 2) WWF Superstars... great production; 3) TBS Saturday PM...still fun to me.

JOE COUGHLIN: TBS Saturday show first. WWF Superstars second, which has gone way downhill. With four pPV shows a year now, every three month segment foes to plugging the next one. Also too many reruns from said shows and SNME shows, etc. Less angles, MORE WRESTLING!!!

TIM HARVEY: CWA - They don't have the most talent, but they put together a TV show with great angles and matches.

BEST MAJOR EVENT

CLASH OF CHAMPIONS I
MARCH 27, 1987

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: None
1987: None

In this new category, we wanted your opinion of the best overall major card held this year. The NWA showed their brashness by going head to head with Wrestlemania IV with their first Clash of Champions and it turned out to be a winner, both from the standpoint of fans in general and in our year end poll.

EVENT	1st	2nd	3rd	total
CLASH I	26	8	0	94
Survivor Series 87	4	8	8	36
Baltimore Bash	5	2	6	25
Starrcade 87	4	2	2	18
Wrestlemania IV	5	0	2	17
Crockett Cup 88	1	3	0	9
Clash II	1	1	2	7
Summerslam	0	3	0	6
Survivor Series 88*	0	2	2	6
Road to Birmingham	1	0	2	5
NBC prime time spec	1	1	0	5
Superclasj III *	0	1	1	3
Starrcade 88 *	1	0	0	3
Royal Rumble I	0	0	2	2
Brody Memorial (Jpn)	0	1	0	2
Clash of Champ III	0	1	0	2
IWGP Finals	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

* These events will be eligible again in next year's voting...Clash of Champions I scored a resounding victory over its immediate competition, namely Wrestlemania with a point spread of 77. The NWA had seven events named, the WWF six, with Japanese events picking up two and the CWF and AWA one each.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: I think this is the second time I've picked the winners in order of finish. I took the Baltimore Bash third. I thought the card was well done overall and thought the triple tower of doom came off a lot better than anyone suspected. Second place was the original survivor series which was well accepted. The concept was new and the tag team match made up for any small problems the show might have suffered. First place went to Clash I. Everyone knew what they were up against in Wrestlemania and everyone worked their butts off. The show gave three very good candidates for match of the year. To top it off, it was free.

Garea: None really impressed me.

Siegel: 1. Starrcade 88; 2. Clash of Champions I; 2. Survivor Series.

READERS COMMENTS

ERIC HOYME: I'll take Clash of Champions I for several reasons. Firstoff, the workrate was superior to anything else we saw all year. The reson for the workrate was no doubt due to the fact they knew they were going up against wrestlemana. the second reason for voting it first is because of what it accomplished. It hurt wrestlemania whether the folks at the WWF want to admit it or not. The Survivor Series from 1987 (which you allowed in this year's voting) get the number two vote for the same reasons Clash got the number one vote. It's just the shoe was on the other foot. Number three is a bit of a surprise, i know, but i'm going with wrestlemania IV. The show itself was pretty bad although it had its moments. The reason for the third place vote 9because no one in their right mind should consider it for number one two, three, four or anything else) is just due to the business it generated. That should have mention of something.

JOE COUGHLIN; The first Clash of Champions was the best single show I saw all year.

TIM HARVEY: 1) Clash II...the Midnights vs Fantastics match was an all time classic; 2) Crockett Cup...what a grat set of matchups and unlike the WWF tournament, the matches were good. 3) Survivor Series 87...a pretty good idea that will work only once or twice.

RON LEMIEUX: 1) Starrcade 87; 2) Clash I; 3) Survivor Series 87. Not many of these major events were that great. Survivors gets third by default. Nothing was better.

NAME WITHHELD #3: I chose the WWF's Wrestlemaia. If you turned down the sound (to get rid of the quiet, morgue like atmosphere) it wasn't bad. The video tape produced by Titan and Coliseum Video is even better and more exciting to watch because they've enhanced the sound. Second choice to Summerslam. I attended in person and sat about half way up. it was exciting. I couldn't watch the video tape I made of it due to Superstar and maybe that's why it got such bad reviews. In person you would have liked it. Vote number three goes to The Royal Rumble. I really liked he idea of the battleroyal being done this way and you couldn't figure out the finish.

WORST ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR

SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: None
1987: David Crockett

Based on his one night as color commentator at Summerslam 88, Superstar Billy Graham walked away with the Worst Announcer Award, unseating David Crockett for the spot. Although used for his commentary throughout the year, Graham will long be remembered for the constant use of the word "brother" (properly pronounced BRUDDAH) during the pay per view show.

ANNOUNCER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
BILLY GRAHAM	16	9	5	71
David Crockett	15½	9	3	67½
Ron Trongard	2	9	4	28
Marc Lowrance	4	2	7	23
Gorilla Monsoon	5½	1	4	22½
Lord Alfred Hayes	3	3	4	19
Ed Whalen	5	1	1	18
Larry Nelson	0	3	2	8
Bill Mercer	0	1	1	3
Mike McGuirk	1	0	0	3
Bruno Sammartino	0	1	0	2
Pete Dorhety	0	1	0	2
Verne Gagne	0	1	0	2
Max Hedlock	0	0	1	1
Don Muraco	0	0	1	1
Sean Mooney	0	0	1	1
Harvey Martin	0	0	1	1
Jim Ross	0	0	1	1
David McLane	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

This was a closer race than even I thought it was...I made a mistake calculating the results and just now found it before typing. Before the mistake, Superstar held a wide lead over second place finisher David Crockett, but the mistake corrected narrowed the victory to just three and a half points. The rest of the group formed abottle neck with one one wanting to emerge a third place winner until the last day of voting. Ed Whalen, the announcer for Calgary Stampede, picked up a lot of "support" because of his stubborness. If Ed doesn't like an angle, he won't even try to get it over.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: One of my favorite categories. I took David McLane and his "WHOAAAA BABY!" for my third place vote this year, for no other reason than his lack of exposure. The more he pops up, the more likely he will climb higher in my personal poll. Second goes to Ron Trongard. Earlier this year, Mick Karch revealed in the Pro Wrestling Torch that Ron never prepared for a telecast by learning anything about the wrestlers. Hell, we already knew that, or at least suspected it. First place finds me going with the majority and placing Superstar Graham at the top. David Crockett was bad, but I can attribute that to mental deficiencies. I have no earthly explanation, brother, for Brother Superstar. Summerslam was the first time I had ever actually turned down the sound because the announcing was so bad.

Garea: Take your pick (editor's note: officially, no vote was counted for Ed.)

Siegel: 1. David Crockett; 2. Billy Graham; 3. Bobby Heenan

Grande: David Crockett continues his half decade long domination of this category. If we're going strictly on people who have no business broadcasting professionally. I'll take Billy graham second and Al hayes third. It's really a commentary (no pun intended) when it's easier to pick the worst than the best.

READERS COMMENTS

DON G SMITH: Superstar Graham... David Crockett would have won except that he had been relegated to interviews now.

JOE COUGHLIN: Monsoon, who is so "excited" it sounds totally phony. He might as well be screaming, "Can I have my paycheck now!".

RON DOBRATZ: Despite the death of her father and the fear of sounding chauvinistic, Miss McGuirk is clearly the worst announcer in a category with a myriad of legitimate contenders. ken Resnik, lord Alfred hayes (why would anyone employ his lordship if Nick Bockwinkel was available?), and Shaun Mooney.

JOE MANNA: I hope superstar can return to the ring so that he can get out of the announcer's booth.

ERIC HOYME: Graham was B-A-D at Summerscam, but his work throughout the year on USA cablecasts was not that annoying. They must have told him they were going to fine him for each "brother" that came out of his mouth. Speaking of brother, Jim's brother David is my first pick. He'd rather push himself than the wrestlers. And i hear he's upset at getting cut back on his camera time. As Road Warrior Hawk would say, "Bad for you...good for us!"

BEST INTERVIEW

JIM CORNETTE

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Ric Flair
1987: Jim Cornette

For the second year running, Jim Cornette topped his competition by a wide margin to capture the mouth of the year award. Jim proved to be versatile when he moved from the heel side of the group to he babyface side without missing a beat. Some voters noted that his interviews actually improved after turning face.

NOMINEE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
JIM CORNETTE	36½	8	2	127½
Paul E Dangerously	3	14	7	44
Ric Flair	5½	7	9	39½
Jerry Lawler	1	3	7	16
Ted DiBiase	1	0	5	8
Road Warrior Hawk	0	2	1½	5½
Jake Roberts	0	2	1	5
Eddie Gilbert	0	2	1	5
Rick Steiner	1	0	1	4
Varsity Club	1	0	1	4
Kevin Sullivan	1	0	0	3
Abdullah the butcher	1	0	0	3
Makhan Singh	0	1	1	3
Andre the Giant	1	0	0	3
Phil Hickerson	1	0	0	3
Arn Anderson	1	0	0	3
Jacques Rougeau	0	1	0	2
Terry Taylor	0	1	0	2
Sting	0	1	0	2
Brian Pillman	0	1	0	2
Dick Murdoch	0	1	0	2
Rick Rude	0	1	0	2
Road warrior Animal	0	0	1½	1½
Rougeau Brothers	0	0	1	1
Sheepherders	0	0	1	1
Michael Hayes	0	0	1	1
Steve DiSalvo	0	0	1	1
Jim Garvin	0	0	1	1
Slick	0	0	1	1
Robert Fuller	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

Another runaway category with Jim Cornette taking first place votes on 15 of the first 17 ballots cast. Paul E. was able to hang on to second spot over first year winner Ric Flair on the strength of second place votes.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: Road Warrior Hawk's interviews at the end of the year after turning heel were among the best in the business and possibly topped Cornette and Dangerously both. However, his interviews in the first nine months of 1988 prevented him from making my ballot. Third place instead went to Jerry Lawler who, although was never "great" always sold tickets and was the most consistent among the top finishers. Second place goes to Paul E Dangerously who came closer to taking first on my list than a lot of people would realize. Upon entering the NWA he had to change his character so that it wouldn't be so much of a JIm Cornette clone and yet he still managed to be entertaining. First goes to Jim Cornette who all year long was fabulous with the mike. There simply was none better.

Garea: I had to go with Jim Cornette as well.

Siegel: 1. Ric Flair & Jim Cornette (tie); 2. Arn Anderson; 3. Rougeau Brothers (Editor's note: Just like Jeff...we give him three choices and he takes five. Geéz).

READERS COMMENTS

TIM HARVEY; Jim Cornette...he's funny and he gets the message across in more words per minute than any other interview.

JOE MANNA: 1) Jimmy cornette; 2) makhan Singh; 3) Steve DiSalvo... Makhan Singh is really funny. maybe there is something wrong with me but i love this guy. When DiSalvo was a heel, his condensating obnoxious tone was fantastic.

NAMEWITH HELD #2: If Cornette doesn't WALK away with this category, then your voting is as rigged as Pro Wrestling Illustrated's. Whoever comes up with his stuff, whether it's Cornette or someone else, is not only a genius, they could be making big bucks in Hollywood as a writer.

PROMOTER: Mike Gunter CITY: Raleigh NC
Bobby Eaton vs Owen Hart
Ric Flair vs Ted DiBiase
Akira Maeda & Tatsumi Fujinami
vs
Road Warriors
Terry Gordy & Stan Hansen
vs
Steve Williams & Bam Bam Bigelow
Missy Hyatt & Medussa Miceli
vs
Elizabeth & Precious

****

PROMOTER: Allan Cooper CITY: Wyandotte MI
Hulk Hogan vs Ric Flair
Bulldogs vs Midnight Express
Barry Horowitz vs Brady Boone
Randy Savage vs Barbarian
Steve Williams vs Ron Simmons
Road Warriors vs Demolition
Notes: Warlord interferes on behalf of Road warriors, Barbarian on behalf of Demolition.

****

PROMOTER: Michelle Johnson CITY: Watertown NY
Davey Boy Smith vs Dynamite Kid
Hart Foundation vs Midnight Express
Eddie Gilbert/Sting vs Terry Taylor/Curt Hennig
BATTLE OF THE BUMPS
Earl Hebner vs Dave Hebner
Owen Hart vs Ric Flair
NOTES: for the NWA title. During the last 5 minutes of this one hour timelimit match, both wrestlers start showing obvious signs of wear. Buckets of water have been dumped on them to prevent heat stroke. During the last minute, it's all that the two can do to stand up. Despite his efforts to continue, Owen collapses in the middle of the ring. Ric manages to take a few more steps before he too collapses and falls on top of Owen. The referee sees this as a pinning combination and counts three, thus Ric retains his title.

BEST FINISHING MANEUVER
OWEN HART'S MOONSAULT FLIP

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Jake Robert's DDT
1987: Diamond/Tanaka's slingshot DDT

Moves by wrestlers are becoming more and more hi-tech as the years go by. Finishers in the olden days such as the body slam, the irish whip and the airplane spin have become transition holds and moves into what we now know as high spots and our list below.

WRESTLER AND MOVE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Owen Hart's Moonsault flip	11	3	3	42
Jake Roberts' DDT	9	1	3	32
Keichi Yamada's Shooting Star	3	3	0	15
Midnight Express Veg-o-matic	3	1	1	12
Arn Anderson's DDT	2	2	2	12
Arn Anderson's Gourdbuster	2	2	2	12
Sting's leap/scorpion	2	3	0	12
Road Warrior top rope clothesline	2	1	3	11
Midnight Rocket Launcher	1	1	2	7
Rockerplex	1	1	1	6
Diamond/Tanaka DDT	1	1	1	6
Midnight Double Goosel	1	1	1	6
SST top rope dive	1	1	0	5
Orton Superplex	1	1	0	5
One Man Gang's Gourdbuster	1	1	0	5
Savage's elbow drop	0	2	1	5
Midnight's Divorce Court	1	1	0	5
RPM's whatever it is	0	2	0	4
Ken Wayne's reverse piledriver	1	0	0	3
Koko's brainbuster	0	1	1	3
Tenyru/Hara clothesline	1	0	0	3
Hase's Northern Lights suplex	1	0	0	3
Bubba/Bossman side slam	0	0	3	3
Hart Attack	0	1	1	3
Barbarian leap	1	0	0	3
Arn Anderson's spinebuster	0	1	1	3
Bad New Brown's ghettoblaster	1	0	0	3
Saito's suplex	1	0	0	3
Gilbert's hotshot	1	0	0	3
Commando's double splash	1	0	0	3
Pillman's top rope karate spin kick	1	0	0	3
Fernandez' flying burrito	0	1	0	2
Sheepherders' battering ram	0	1	0	2
Steiner's belly to belly	0	0	2	2
Garvin's hands of stone	0	1	0	2
Tully Blanchard's slingshot	0	0	2	2
Keiji mutoh's moonsault	0	1	0	2
Windham's bulldog	0	1	0	2
Midnight's flapjack	0	1	0	2
Chavo Guerrero's backflip	0	1	0	2
Pillman's splash	0	0	1	1
Rude Awakening	0	0	1	1
Liz's strip	0	0	1	1
Armstrong swinging neckbreaker	0	0	1	1
Footloose clothesline	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

The midnight Express takes top honors of having the most moves listed. Arn Anderson checks in at second place in that way. Jake's DDT held on to finish second for the second year in a row after a first place finish the first year of balloting. Express' Veg-o-matic was debuted late in the year and still did well.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: My third choice goes to Owen Hart and his moonsault flip. since the WWF told him he couldn't do it anymore, that's why it only came in third. Second goes to the Rock and Roll RPM's for whatever they call that move they do. Both of them lift the opponent upinto the air horizontally, then smash him straight down on to the matt. We saw this in person at the WMC-TV studios in Memphis, and to give you an idea of how effective it was, they instructed those of us from the uAWf to cheer only for the babyfaces and to boo the heels. When we saw this move, the reaction from the UAWF group was spontaneous and immediate applause. Not cheers, but applause for a move well done (applause was preceded by a group gasp). First place goes to the old standby for me of the Road warriors' top rope clothesline, especially when sold by someone who does a 360 off Animal's shoulders (like Sting).

Siegel: 1. Midnight Express' Double Goozel; 2. Road warriors' off the top rope clothesline (especially he one they used to injure Sting); 3. Owen hart's moonsault flip.

READERS COMMENTS

JOE COUGHLIN: There aren't many. Jake's DDT I suppose. I have to give consideration to things like splashes by the likes of Akeem and Bossman, but not for the move itself, but for the guts it takes on the jobber's part to participate in them.

MARK BENNETT: Arn Anderson's DDT. I'm amazed everytime I see it.

ERIC HOYME: Leave it to the Midnight Express to invent all sorts of new and exciting maneuvers. i'm going with the veg-o-matic as 1st choice just due to the fact that it's the only new thing anyone has come up with lately. i know I wouldn't want to be on the receiving end of that thing. Second and third place are a toss up between the Divorce court and the double goosel. Put those two in any order you want. With the moves they come up with it gives the appearance that they are a multi-offensive threat and it makes squash matches worth watching rather than using the fast forward button.

WORST FINISHING MANEUVER

HULK HOGAN'S LEG BOMB

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Hogan's leg Bomb
1987: Hogan's Leg Bomb

For the third year in a row, Hulk Hogan's Leg Bomb has captured the Year's worst finishing maneuver category. You'd think he'd take the hint!

WRESTLER & MOVE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Hulk Hogan's Leg Bomb	18	3	4	64
HTM's Shake Rattle & Roll	3	5	2	15
Ron garvin's Hands of Stone	2	3	1	13
Nikita's clothesline	2	2	3	13
Barry Windham's claw	2	0	4	10
Brutus Beefcake's sleeper	1	2	3	10
Greg Gagne's sleeper	1	3	0	9
Ted DiBiase's cobra	2	1	0	8
Ron Garvin's stomp	2	1	0	8
the Rude Awakening	0	3	1	7
Ultimate Warrior slam/splash	1	2	0	7
Dusty's Bionic Elbow	1	1	1	6
Kevin Von Erich's claw	0	2	2	6
Dino bravo's side slam	2	0	0	6
Tully Blanchard's slingshot	1	1	0	5
Le Bomb Rougeau	1	0	1	4
Rocky Mount Thunder suplex	1	0	1	4
Baron Von Raschke's claw	1	0	1	4
Greg valentine's figure four	0	2	0	4
Russian Assassin's headbutt	1	0	0	3
Jimmy Hart's megaphone finish	1	0	0	3
Fujiwara's armbar	1	0	0	3
Don Muraco's piledriver	1	0	0	3
George Steele's hammerlock	0	1	1	3
Killer Bee's mask trick	1	0	0	3
Ric Flair's figure four	1	0	0	3
Ricky Rice's legdrop	1	0	0	3
Commando's double splash	1	0	0	3
Iceman's rumperstumper	1	0	0	3
Andre's suplex	1	0	0	3
Tito's flying forearm	1	0	0	3
Rock & Roll double dropkick	1	0	0	3
Wahoo's chop	1	0	0	3
Jim Gravin's brainbuster	1	0	0	3
Weaverlock	0	1	0	2
Andre's choke	0	1	0	2
Makhan's singh's Karachi Krunch	0	1	0	2
Rip Roger's riparoni	0	1	0	2
Dusty's DDT	0	1	0	2
Demolition's elbow drop	0	1	0	2
Al Perez' spinning toe hold	0	1	0	2
jim Duggan's tackle	0	1	0	2

THOSE RECEIVING ONE THIRD PLACE VOTE FOR ONE POINT: Original Midnight Express' Rocket launcher; Bam Bam Bigelow's gourdbuster; Hercules' full nelson; Ricky Rice's "potato"dropkicks; Koko B Ware's brainbuster; Sting's leap/scorpion; Bam Bam Bigelow's enzuigeri; Ultimate Warrior's splash.

VOTING NOTES

No surprise here as Hogan took the lead at the beginning and was never challenged. His third year at the top represents a total of 215 points for the dreaded leg bomb. Sleeperholds seem to put fans to sleep as four were named on ballots for a total of 29 total points. Claw holds weren't far behind.

STAFF PICKS

I thought it was a shame that barry Windham was subjected to having a claw for a finishing hold. No Doubt it was Dusty's idea and had to do with Barry's father (who never gets mentioned anyway) using the hold. For what ever reason, I gave it the third place vote. I went with the eventual winner in the second place on my ballot. Hogan really needs a new move. First place goes to the hands of stone punch from Ronnie Garvin. It just seems dumb.

Garea: Give my vote to anything that Dino bravo does.

Siegel: 1. Hogan's leg bomb; 2. Honky Tonk Man's Shake Rattle and Roll

READERS COMMENTS

JOE MANNA: Garvin's stomp is the stupidest move I have ever seen. 2) DiBiase's sleeper, 3) Windham claw...Why do great technical wrestlers like DiBiase and Windham have finishes that are quite lame? would it not be wiser to give them finishes that their talent can handle?

RON LEMIEUX: Greg Gagne's sleeper; 2) Kevin Von Erich's claw; Brutus Beefcake sleeper. I absolutely hate he sleeper and the claw but these three individuals aren't like DiBiase or Windham as their great wrestlig ability overshadows the finishing maneuvers.

JOE COUGHLIN: Absolutely and forever, Hogan's leg drop.

STEVE YOHE: 1) Flair's figure four... I've yet to see him beat anyone with it. It's broken and reversed by everyone.

****

PROMOTER: Nannette Johnson CITY: Watertown NY

Ric Flair vs Owen Hart

Ted DiBiase & Randy Savage

vs

Hulk Hogan & Steve Williams

with

Brother Love as special referee

Midnight Express & Bret Hart

vs

Fantastics & Sting

Jake Roberts & Cheyrl

vs

Rick Rude & Raven (his sister)

MAIN EVENT: BATTLE ROYAL

Notes: All but the last wrestler remaining must disassociate himself from wrestling. Participants include Junkyard Dog, Ultimate Warror, Brutus Beefcake, Dino Bravo, Ken Patera, Bugsy McGraw, Jimmy Valiant, Verne Gagne, Fritz Von Erich, Dusty Rhodes, David Crockett, Danny "WWF" Davis, Ron Bass and the Bolsheviks. Two referees come to the ring wearing hoods. After the bell sounds, the refs pull off their hoods and reveal themselves as Jon Gallagher and Dave Meltzer. All wrestlers jump out simultaneously and are eliminated.

BIGGEST SHOCK OF THE YEAR

BRODY'S MURDER

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: None
1987: Watts sells UWF

Shock is another very personal reaction to a given event. It may be disgusting, but may just as well be a pleasant happening as well. Whatever, the common denominator seems to be that whatever the situation or event, the news leaves you speechless.

EVENT	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Brody's death	45	2½	0	138
Adonis's death	2	13½	5	38
Kerry's amputation	3	7	3	26
Twin refs/Hogan loses belt	0	4	1	9
Tully & Arn jump to WWF	0	4	1	9
Turner buys NWA	0	1	4	6
NWA financial state	1	0	1	4
Wrestlemania being so bad	0	1	1	3
Windham turns heel	1	0	0	3
AWA-CWA-WCCW alliance	0	1	1	3
Demise of Mat results & Wrestling informer	1	0	0	3
Crockett not firing Dusty	0	1	0	2
Warrior wins IC title	0	1	0	2
Hansen potatoed in Japan	0	1	0	2
decline of Japanese women	0	0	1	1
Bulldogs quit WWF	0	0	1	1
Rude gets over	0	0	1	1
Jarrett buys WCCW	0	0	1	1
Gilbert fired from CWF	0	0	1	1
UWF a success in Japan	0	0	1	1
WWF on NBC prime time	0	0	1	1
AWA remaining in business	0	0	1	1
Owen Hart goes to Titan	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

Somehow it didn't seem fair to separate the deaths of wrestlers since a sudden death is always a shock. The votes for Brody over Adonis, no doubt, are votes that reflect the violent nature of his death rather than the accidental one of Adrian Adonis. Kerry's foot (or lack thereof) gained red hot support with a number of ballots cast towards the end. With the story not breaking until after the voting started, it made a very impressive showing at third place.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: I really didn't think they'd take the belt away from Hogan on the NBC show last February. I was shocked when I saw it and even more shocked when Jesse Ventura uttered the classic line, "Hey! There's TWO Dave Hebners in that ring!" I'll take it third. Second goes to Kerry and his amputation. It's such a bizarre story, I still have trouble believing it. First place goes to the Murder of Brody. Although I was never a big Brody fan, I was literally numbed by the phone call informing me of the murder.

Garea: The murder of Bruiser Brody is my 1st place choice.

Siegel: 1. Brody's Murder; 2. Turner buys NWA: 3. John McAdam's language at Convention 88.

grande: 1) Brody's death; 2) Adonis' death; 3) I'll choose a trivial one. From Summerslam... at 9:44 pm the Honky Tonk Man was in the ring singing when all of a sudden, I felt this big whoosh by my arm as the ultimate Warrior flew down the aisle. At 9:45 pm, there was a new Intercontinental champion. Could have knocked me over with a feather!

READERS COMMENTS

ERIC HOYME: I still remember opening my July 15th edition of the Forum, by haphazardly to the centerfold and seeing that little slip of paper stpled in special. i must have read about brody's death on that slip a hundred times, each hoping and praying that your source was wrong. I can still feel the goosebumps running up my spine as I read it for the second time along with the hot feeling in the tips of my ears. I hope that feeling never comes again.

RON LEMIEUX: What else could be number one? Very hard to believe because of Brody's size that a person like Gonzales could kill him. he seemed invincible. The Turner-Crockett story had a chance to win this category but the on again-off again news got pretty monotonous.

RON DOBRATZ: Immediately the incident in puerto Rico comes to mind along with the thought "nothing else could compare", especially considering the circumstances, but upon further thought, equally shocking, if not more so, was your report that Kerry Von Erich has been wrestling with a prosthesis since his foot was amputated.

TIM HARVEY: (on his #3 choice of the NWA's financial troubles)... I still can't believe that jim Crockett let this happen. For employing Dusty, David and John Ayers, he has shown he is a total idiot. The wrestling world should unite and thank Ted Turner.

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF 1988

STING

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Rick Steiner
1987: Big Bubba Rogers (Bossman)

Many things contribute to the improvement of a wrestler including his level of opposition, changes in attitude, turns, and fan support. Sting this year, went from a middle of the card afterthought to matches with Ric Flair. Evidently what he picked up from Flair was enough to convince readers to vote him Most improved.

WRESTLER	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Sting	16	7	2	64
Rick Steiner	8	7	1	39
Lex Luger	4	3	3	21
Chris Benoit	1	4	1	12
Biff Wellington	1	2	1	8
Ron Simmons	1	2	0	7
Jeff Jarrett	1	1	2	7
Hiro Hase	1	2	0	7
Steve Cox	1	0	3	6
Samson Fuyuki	2	0	0	6
Mike Rotundo	2	0	0	6
Gary Young	1	1	0	5
Paul Roma	0	2	1	5
Al Perez	0	1	2	4
Barry Windham	1	0	0	3
Pat Tanaka	1	0	0	3
Ultimate Warrior	1	0	0	3
Stan Lane	1	0	0	3
Honky Tonk Man	1	0	0	3
Hercules Hernandez	1	0	0	3
Italian Stallion	1	0	0	3
Shane Douglas	1	0	0	3
Norman Smiley	1	0	0	3
Road Warrior Hawk	0	1	0	2
Rick Rude	0	1	0	2
Johnny Ace	0	1	0	2
Fantastics	0	1	0	2
Kerry Von Erich	0	1	0	2
Isao Takagi	0	1	0	2
Barry Horowitz	0	1	0	2
Dan Kroffatt	0	0	2	2
Steve Williams	0	0	1	1
Haku	0	0	1	1
Terry Taylor	0	0	1	1
Randy Rose	0	0	1	1
Medussa Micelli	0	0	1	1
Tim Horner	0	0	1	1
Jerry Lawler	0	0	1	1
Steve Doll	0	0	1	1
Smash	0	0	1	1
Jake Roberts	0	0	1	1
Cactus Jack Foley	0	0	1	1
Bossman	0	0	1	1
Johnny Smith	0	0	1	1
Randy Savage	0	0	1	1
Hulk Hogan	0	0	1	1

VOTING NOTES

Sting rocketed to a big lead early but stagnated in the last weeks. Rick Steiner surged late in the voting to pass up Lex Luger and Chris benoit rallied during the last week to keep him off the bottom of the list.

STAFF PICKS

Gallagher: In the past year and a half, i've been pretty hard on Steve Cox saying things like "He'll have to improve 100% just to be awful!" Time to eat my words. He's not good yet by any stretch of the imagination, but he has improved enough to nail down my third place selection. Number two goes to Ron Simmons who a year ago was nothing more than a former football player with a good physique. Again, Simmons is not top 20 material, but he has improved in recent months evidenced by his performance on the last Clash of Champions. Number one goes to Sting who had made some dramatic strides in the past two years, but this year he seems to have put it all together. He understand ring psychology a lot better than last year and that combined with solid work earns him my nod in this category.

Garea: Norman Smiley.

Siegel: 1. Sting; 2. Lex Luger; 3. Rick Steiner

READERS COMMENTS

GARY FISHMAN: 1) Sting; 2) Barry Windham; 3) Rick Steiner...all three were good last year but they have gotten even better.

LANCE LEVINE: 10 barry windham... already a legend, his heel turn sparked him even more in 88. 2) Rick Steiner... interviews killed me. 3) Lex Luger... when did you notice him blow up really bad last?

STEVE SIMS: 1) Rick Steiner; 2) Hiroshi Hase; 3) Lex Luger...Steiner has gone from consistently good to often great; Hase went from great to probably best in the world; Luger has now gone from unbearably bad two years ago to fair one year ago to good now. He's not yet at the top, but I think he's improved a huge amount in each of the last two years.

RON LEMIEUX: Steiner gets #1 although maybe it's his push that makes me notice his improvement. Gary Young has improved from being a decent jobber in the UWF to a mid level heel in Memphis. A good worker and number 2. Steve Cox (#3) although still clumsy at times has improved to the point of being watchable.

ERIC HOYME: Sting did a lot this year to refine his already good performance. In 1987, he worked hard, but didn't know how to follow up a move. Maybe working with Flair through the early part of the year helped in this respect. he can now not only carry a match, he can call one as well.

JOE COUGHLIN: Sting keeps getting better and better.

BEST NEWSSTAND MAGAZINE

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

PREVIOUS WINNERS:
1986: Pro Wrestling Illustrated
1987: Pro Wrestling Illustrated

There may not be a lot of choice in newsstand magazines nowadays with most of the stuff being printed dated and disgusting. But we continue to salute the perennial purveyors of fine fluff and another trifecta winner, Pro Wrestling illustrated.

MAGAZINE	1st	2nd	3rd	total
Pro Wrestling Illustrated	23	9	2	91
WWF Magazine	4	2	1	17
Wrestling 88	2	4	1	15
Inside Wrestling	1	4	2	13
Wrestling Eye	3	1	2	13
Superstars (Napolatono)	1	2	3	10
Main Event	2	0	2	8
the Wrestler	0	2	4	6
Wrestling World	2	0	0	6
Pro Wrestling Digest *	2	0	0	6
Wrestling Fury	1	0	0	3
Beauties of Wrestling	1	0	0	3
Wrestling All Stars	1	0	0	3
Women of Wrestling	0	1	0	2
GLOW Magazine	0	0	1	1
Wrestling News (Keitzer) **	0	0	1	1
Wrestling Confidential	0	0	1	1
Celebrity Wrestling	0	1	1	3

* Formerly NWA Digest, published by Dennis Brendt and sold only by subscription
** by subscription only

VOTING NOTES

Only 43 of the ballots contained votes in the category. PWI was once again a runaway winner with nothing else even coming close. That says something for the impact of Bill Apter and crew on the wrestling business. I'm sure there were magazines that did not make the list, but right now I can't think of any other than the Apter mag Sports Review Wrestling.

STAFF PICKS

This may be hypocritical to include this category in the yearbook voting and then not voting myself, but that's the way it goes. I didn't read enough magazines this year to really give a fair judgement. I should say I didn't BUY enough as I stop by the magazine rack in the supermarket everytime I go in, just to see what they're saying. If I had to vote, I'd go with PWI because that's the only one I do buy on even a semi regular basis. I know the WWF magazine has all sorts of great pictures due to the only photographer Titan allows at ringside, Steve Taylor (and with that kind of control who wouldn't have great pictures?), but I honestly wouldn't soil my hands with that garbage they write.

Garea: This category is an oxymoron. No picks from me!

Siegel: Pro Wrestling Illustrated.

READERS COMMENTS

NAMEWITHHELD #1: I don't know why you still insist on this category. You certainly don't have to kiss anyone's ass by doing this, but that's what naming ths category seems to do. No matter how often you name a magazine the best, or who finished first, they still aren't going to mention it in their precious pages. Why should they...they have over 50,000 readers voting intheir "awards". That lie is enough to disqualify every single magazine on the market.

RON DOBRATZ: I don't read wrestling magazines and didn't cast a vote in this category last year, but I happened to see a copy of PWI a couple of months ago and thought it was pretty good. Then I noticed their special 1988 review issue bought it, and was quite impressed.

ERIC HOYME: Don't count this, but I 'd give my vote here to the National Enquierer. After all, the come closer to printing the truth than any of the legitimate newstand publications.

TITLE HISTORIES
1988

The following list is the most complete we could come up with for the various titles for each promotion. The date is listed first and this is the date the title changed hands. The wrestler(s) winning the title is listed second and he site of the title change is listed third. A number in parenthesis following the site indicates a special footnote below. Listed first in each category along with the date and site is the wrestler(s) who held the championship heading into the year.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

WWF "UNDISPUTED" HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
1/23/84	Hulk Hogan	New York City
2/5/88	Andre the Giant	Indianapolis, IN (1)
3/27/88	Randy Savage	Atlantic City NJ (2)

(1) title was declared vacant after Andre sold the title to Ted DiBiase. Officially, DiBiase was never considered than champion, however, he did defend the belt over the next week.

(2) Won championship in a tournament, defeating Ted DiBiase in the finals.

WWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	TEAM	SITE
10/27/87	Strike Force (Martel & Santana)	Syracuse, NY
3/27/88	Demolition (Axe and Smash)	Atlantic City, NJ

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
6/22/87	Honky Tonk Man	Buffalow, NY
8/29/88	Ultimate Warrior	New York City

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

AWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
5/2/87	Curt Hennig	San Francisco, CA
5/9/88	Jerry Lawler	Memphis TN
12/13/88	Jerry Lawler	Chicago, IL (1)

(1) Lawler won a unification bout from Kerry Von Erich. He never lost this championship during the year, however during a series of unification bouts, the title was held up from time to time.

Hennig also had the belt held up when he lost a match to the Grappler in Oregon. It was ruled there that the Grappler had used a loaded boot to win the match. It was also held up in February when Hennig lost to Greg Gagne in a cage in Minneapolis. It was ruled that that match was not a title match.

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	TEAM	SITE
January 88	Midnight Rockers	AWA office (1)
3/19/88	Badd Company (Tanaka & Diamond)	Las Vegas, NV

(1) The Midnight Rockers were awarded the AWA belts when the Original Midnight Express quit the promotion. The basis of the ruling stemmed from a disputed decision of a match between the two teams in December.

AWA TELEVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
12/27/88	Greg Gagne	Las Vegas (1)
9/17/88	Ron Garvin	Nashville, TN
12/13/88	Greg Gagne	Chicago, IL (2)

(1) newly created championship won in a tournament in a final over Adrian Adonis
(2) title changed hands via count out.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

NWA WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

Ric Flair held the championship all year long after defeating Ron Garvin for the title at Starrcade 87 (November 26, 1987) in Chicago.

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLERS	SITE
9/2/87	Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson	Meisenheimer, NC
3/27/88	Lex Luger & Barry Windham	Greensboro, NC
4/20/88	Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson	Tallahassee, FL
9/10/88	Midnight Express (Eaton & Lane)	Philadelphia, PA
10/29/88	Road Warriors	New Orleans, LA

UNITED STATES CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
11/26/87	Dusty Rhodes	Chicago, IL
5/13/88	Barry Windham	Houston TX (1)

(1) Dusty was suspended and the title declared vacant after an attack on Jim Crockett. Windham won the championship in Houston in a tournament final over Nikita Koloff.

UNITED STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	TEAM	SITE
5/16/87	Midnight Express (Eaton & Lane)	Atlanta, GA
4/26/88	Fantastics (Fulton & Rogers)	Chattanooga, TN
7/10/88	Midnight Express (Eaton & Lane)	Baltimore, MD
12/7/88	Fantastics (Fulton & Rogers)	Chattanooga, TN (1)
12/26/88	Steve Williams & Kevin Sullivan	Norfolk, VA

(1) Title was declared vacant on 9/10/88 when Midnight Express won World belts and it was ruled they could not hold both championships at once. Fantastics won a tournament final over Eddie Gilbert and Ron Simmons.

NWA WORLD TELEVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
8/19/87	Nikita Koloff	Fayetteville, NC
1/26/88	Mike Rotundo	Raleigh, NC
12/26/88	Rick Steiner	Chicago, IL

WESTERN STATES HERITAGE TITLE

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
6/20/87	Barry Windham	Houston, TX
1/24/88	larry Zbyszko	Uniondale, NY

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

CONTINENTAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP***

Dutch Mantell held this title from 10/30/87 through the time it was decided to combine this title with the Alabama State Championship and the Southeastern Championship to form the new CWF Heavyweight Championship

SOUTHEASTERN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP***

Lord Humongous held this title from 12/25/87 through the time it was decided to combine this title with the Continental Heavyweight Championship and the Alabama State title to form the new CWF Heavyweight Championship.

ALABAMA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP***

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
10/20/87	Tom Pritchard	Birmingham, AL
1/3/88	Moondog Spot	Montgomery, AL
1/??/88	Ranger Ross	CWF office (1)
1/11/88	Jonathan Boyd	Birmingham, AL
2/15/88	Tom Pritchard	Birmingham, AL
3/28/88	Tony Anthony	Birmingham, AL (2)

(1) This match never took place and was an office change.
(2) Title was then put up as part of the combined CWF title.
***These three titles were combined into the CWF Heavyweight Championship.

CWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
10/3/88	Tom Pritchard	Birmingham,AL (1)

(1) Tournament final over Tony Anthony.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

PACIFIC NORTHWEST HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
10/30/87	Grappler (Len Denton)	Portland, OR
8/5/88	Scott Peterson	Eugene, OR
9/8/88	Grappler	Newport, OR
10/3/88	Top Gun (Dave Sierra)	Longview, WA
???????	Grappler	PNW Office (1)
10/15/88	Tatsumi Fujinami	Portland (2)
12/10/88	Grappler	?????
12/25/88	Top Gun	Portland

(1) Match never took place.
(2) stipulations of the match were that grappler had to defeat Fujinami in 30 minutes or less. The match was a draw and the title awarded to Fujinami.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLERS	SITE
11/27/87	Southern Rockers (Peterson & Doll)	Portland, OR
3/26/88	Mike Golden & Avalanche Paul Neu	Portland, OR
5/7/88	Southern Rockers	Portland, OR
7/2/88	Grappler and Terminator	Portland, OR
7/9/88	Southern Rockers	Portland, OR
7/16/88	Colonel DeBeers & Buddy Rose	Portland, Or
7/22/88	Southern Rockers	Eugene, Or
9/3/88	Buddy Rose and Avalanche Paul Neu	Portland, OR
9/20/88	Southern Rockers	Portland, OR
10/29/88	Abbuda Dein & Grappler	Portland, OR

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TELEVISION TITLE

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
12/26/87	Abbuda Dein	Portland, OR
2/16/88	Assassin (Dave Sierra)	Portland, OR (1)
8/16/88	Colonel DeBeers	Portland, OR (2)
10/9/88	Al Madril	Findley, WA (3)
10/29/88	Top Gun (Dave Sierra)	Portland OR

(1) Title was held up on 1/30/88 following a match between champion Dein and challenger Coco Samoa. Title was declared vacant when no decision could be made. Assassin won a battle royal to win championship.
(2) Title was declared vacant in July when Assassin lost a loser leave town match to Buddy Rose. DeBeers won the title in a tournament with a final over Steve Doll.
(3) Madril won a tournament (may have been fictitious) when DeBeers was stripped of the title.

WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

WORLD CLASS WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
8/21/87	Al Perez	Dallas, TX
3/6/88	Kerry Von Erich	Dallas, TX
3/25/88	Iceman Parsons	Dallas, TX
5/8/88	Kerry Von Erich	Irving, TX
12/13/88	Jerry Lawler	Chicago, IL (1)

(1) Lawler won the unified championship at Superclash III.

NOTE: Prior to the 12/13 card, Von Erich and Lawler had many unification matches in which the title was passed back and forth through a series or technicalities, disqualification endings, reversed decisions, etc. None of these title changes are listed here because they are so numerous and because none were officially recognized.

WCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	TEAM	SITE
11/25/87	Kevin & Kerry Von Erich	????
8/12/88	Samoan Swat Team	Dallas TX
9/16/88	Michael Hayes & Steve Cox	Dallas TX
9/20/88	Samoan Swat Team	Memphis, TN
10/15/88	Hayes & Cox	Dallas, TX
10/17/88	Samoan Swat Team	Fort Worth, TX

TEXAS HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
---	Matt Borne	WCCW office (1)
2/26/88	Terry Taylor	Dallas, TX
7/4/88	Kevin Von Erich	Dallas, TX (2)
8/5/88	Iceman Parsons	Dallas, TX (3)

(1) No match ever took place. Borne was awarded the title when Ted Arcidi left the promotion.
(2) No match ever took place. The match was scheduled but Taylor had left for the WWF. It was announced that Kevin won the match and title via forfeit.
(3) Kevin no showed the title defense, but Kerry Von Erich defended the title for him and lost to Iceman.

TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	TEAM	SITE
6/29/87	Tony Atlas & Skip Young	Fort Worth, TX
1/5/88	John Tatum & Jack Victory	Fort Worth, TX (1)
2/14/88	John Tatum & Jack Victory	Fort Worth, TX (2)
3/20/88	Shaun & Steve Simpson	Fort Worth, TX
4/8/88	John Tatum & Jack Victory	Dallas, Tx
7/25/88	Shaun & Steve Simpson	Temple TX
9/5/88	John Tatum & Jimmy Jack Funk	Fort Worth, TX
9/12/88	Samaon Swat Team	Fort Worth, TX (3)

(1) Atlas failed to show, so Young defended the titles by himself.
(2) Titles were held up following a match with the Fantastics on 1/29/88. The titles were awarded back to Tatum and Victory on this date when the two teams could not come to a decisive win. They drew cards from a deck and the high card won the titles.
(3) Texas Tag Team Championship was unified with WCCW Tag Team Championships.

WCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
12/25/87	Eric Embry	Dallas, TX
10/15/88	Jeff Jarrett	Dallas, TX
11/11/88	Eric Embry	Dallas, TX
11/24/88	Jeff Jarrett	Jackson, TN
12/13/88	Eric Embry	Chicago, IL
12/30/88	Cactus Jack Foley (Manson)	Dallas, TX

CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING ASSOCIATION - MEMPHIS

CWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
12/7/87	Jerry Lawler	Memphis
2/8/88	Max Pain	Memphis, TN
5/23/88	Brickhouse Brown	Memphis, TN (1)
6/27/88	Max Pain	Memphis, TN
7/3/88	Phil Hickerson	Memphis, TN
11/19/88	Brian Lee	Memphis, TN (2)
12/10/88	Sid Vicious	Memphis, TN

(1) Pain was injured earlier in the night and was unable to defend his title. The belt was given to Brown via forfeit.
(2) Tournament final over Mike Miller. The belt had been held up the week earlier from a match with Hickerson and Lee.

CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	TEAM	SITE
11/22/87	Midnight Rockers	Memphis, TN
2/1/88	Max Pain & Gary Young	Memphis, TN (1)
2/29/88	Bruise Brothers	memphis, TN
3/7/88	Pain & Young	memphis, TN
3/28/88	Bruise Brothers	Memphis, TN
5/2/88	Cuban Choir boys	Memphis, TN
5/29/88	Scott Steiner & Billy Travis	Memphis, TN
6/6/88	Gary Young & Don Bass	Memphis, TN
6/27/88	Steiner & Travis	Memphis, TN
8/15/88	Rock & Roll RPM's (Davis and Lane)	Memphis, TN
10/23/88	Gary Young & Cactus jack Foley	Memphis, TN (2)
11/7/88	Robert Fuller & Jimmy Golden	Memphis, TN

(1) Won a tournament to determine new champions after the Rockers vacated the titles following their AWA World Tag Team championship win.
(2) defeated Bill Dundee and Todd Morton in a tournament final when belts had been held up a week earlier.

NORTH AMERICAN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
4/10/87	Owen Hart	Calgary, AB
5/6/88	Makhan Singh	Calgary, AB
12/9/88	Don Muraco	Medicine Hat

INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE	TEAM	SITE
11/13/87	Bad Company (Bruce Hart & Brian Pillman)	Calgary, AB
7/22/88	Cuban Assassin & Jerry Morrow	Calgary, AB
10/7/88	Lance Idol & Chris Benoit	Calgary, AB
10/28/88	Assassin & Morrow	Calgary AB
12/7/88	British Bulldogs	Calgary, AB

COMMONWEALTH-MIDHEAVYWEIGHT

DATE	WRESTLER	SITE
8/7/87	Gama Singh	Calgary, AB
3/18/88	Chris Benoit	Calgary, AB
6/10/88	John Smith	Calgary, AB
6/17/88	Chris benoit	Calgary, AB (1)
6/24/88	Johnny Smith	Calgary AB

(1) Title was not supposed to change hands. The referee made a mistake and counted the wrong wrestler down and they had no choice but to switch the title the next week.

§§§

DEMOGRAPHICS SURVEY

We wanted to know who reads Wrestling Forum. In addition to our regular year ends awards voting, we asked that you include some pertinent facts about yourself. Here's what we came pp with about the readers of Wrestling Forum:

AGE: Our "average reader is 28.3 years old. We had readers from age 14 through 47 voting in our poll. The most common age was 19 & 26.

OCCUPATION: The following list of occupations along with the number of each were listed on ballots:

STUDENT: 11
SYSTEMS ANALYST: 1
SALES: 7
COMPUTER OPERATOR: 3
RETAIL: 3
OFFICE MANAGER: 2
NONE: 2
NURSE: 3
SOCIAL WORKER: 1
TEACHERS: 6
GROCERY STORE: 1
SERVICE/TECHNICAL: 2
GOVERNMENT: 1
ACCOUNTING: 1
COMMUNICATIONS: 1
MANUFACTURING: 1

SEX: In our survey, 91% were male (42) and 9% female (4) with none undecided (thank God).

In addition the following responses were given: "Irregularly" "Yes" "Are you looking?"

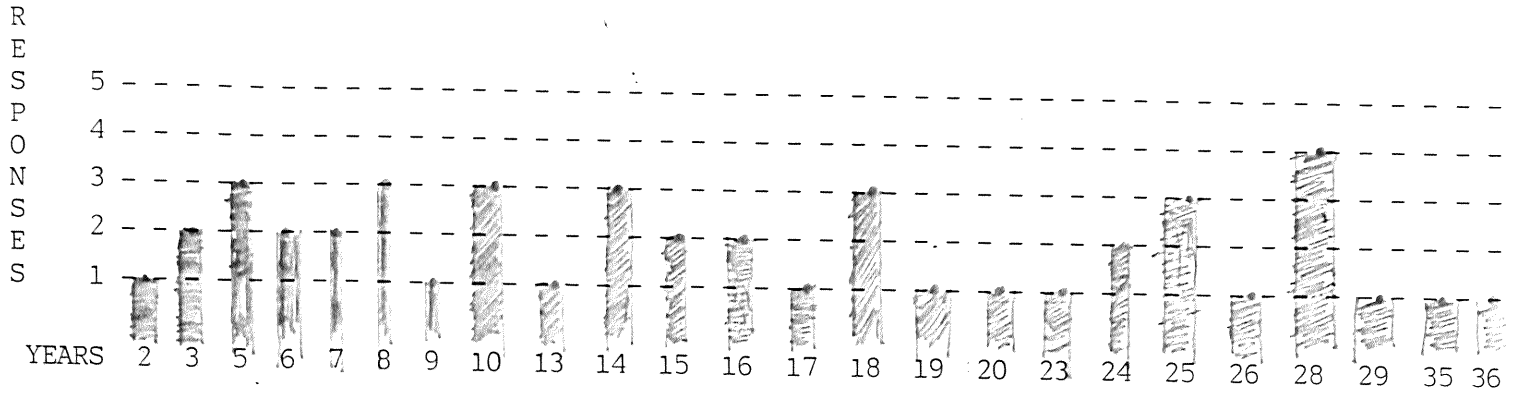
YEARS A FAN: 723 total years of watching wrestling are shared by our readers. The average reader has been a fan for 15.7 years. The most common response was 28 years by four readers.

NUMBER OF CARD ATTENDED LIVE PER YEAR: The responses ranged from no live cards (2 readers to fifty (one person inside the business who we didn't count in our totals due to it throwing off the averages). Total cards attended in a year by our voters came to 487. At $12.00 per ticket average cost, that means our voters were responsible for $5844.00 going into the pockets of promotions. That doesn't count souvenir sales. And it doesn't count the other 200 readers who didn't vote. See graph for distribution of numbers.

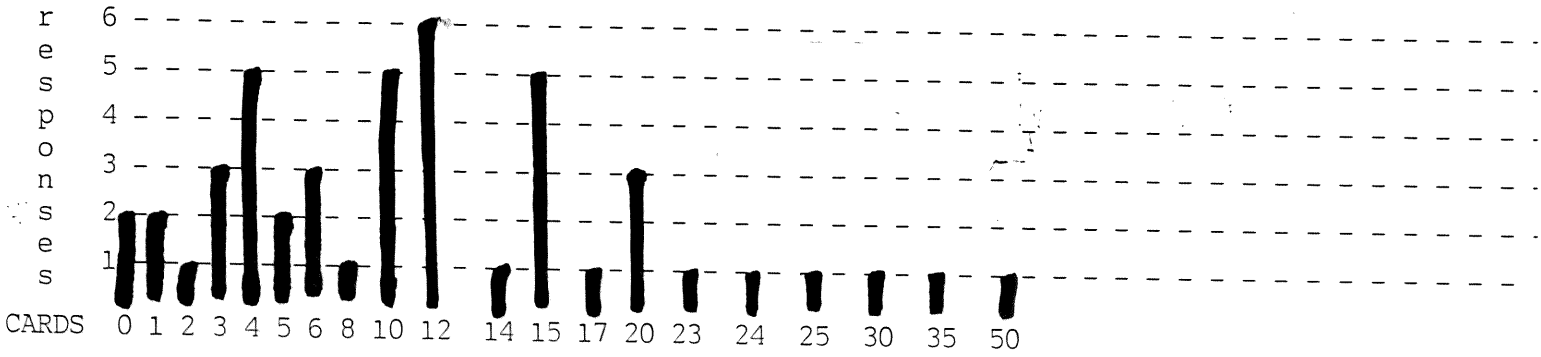
NUMBER OF HOURS SPENT WATCHING TV WRESTLING: The average reader spends 9.6 hours per week in front of the television set. Times ranged from 2 hours to 25 hours (no dave and I didn't set that record) with most of the voters (8) saying they watch ten hours.

NUMBER OF NEWSLETTERS SUBSCRIBED TO: The average voter subscribes to four bulletins. They ranged from none subscribed to (a reader, actually the sister of a subscriber) to 15 bulletins. Most people came in at three.

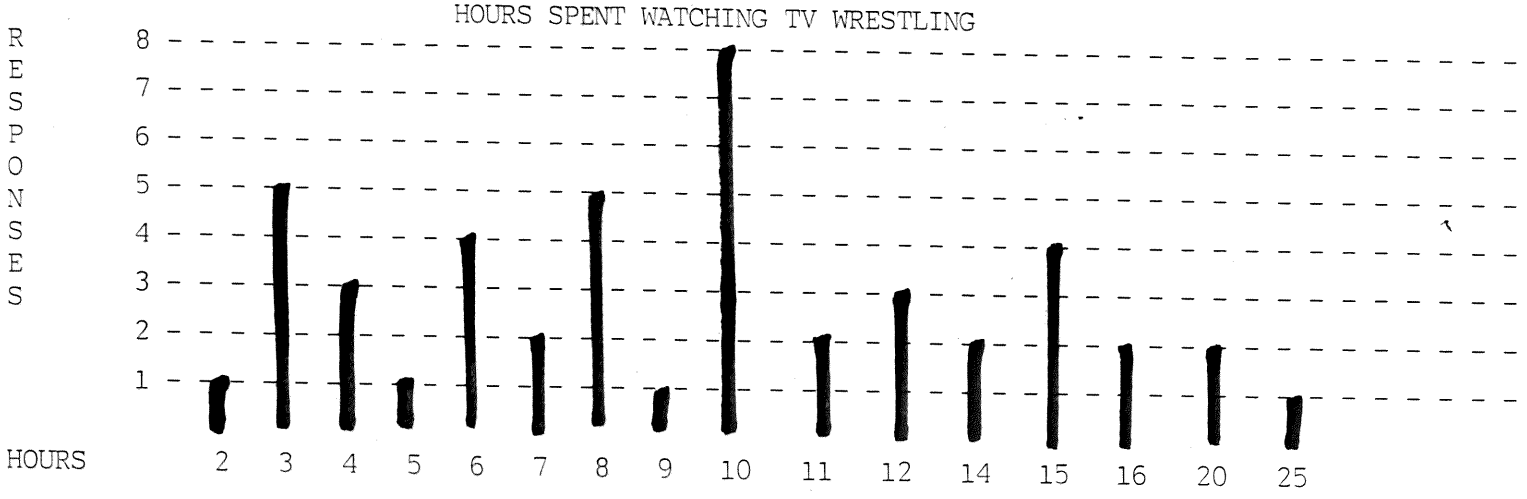
YEARS AS A FAN



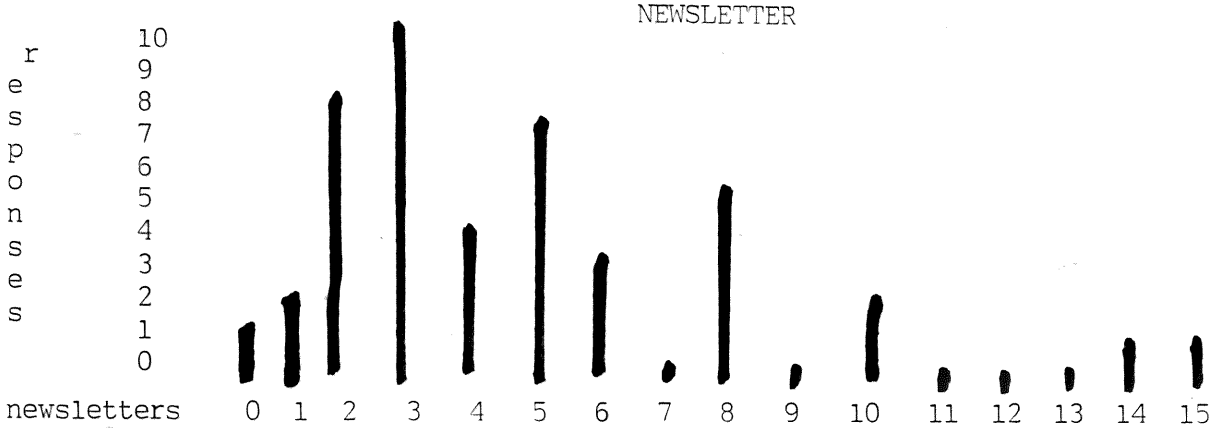
number of cards per year



HOURS SPENT WATCHING TV WRESTLING



NEWSLETTER



THE THIRD ANNUAL PHANNIES - Yes, fans, it's once again time for the Phannies, the awards that go to those who consistently do the least with the most, or the least with the least, as the case may be. So let's stop the talking and get down to the awards.

WORST PROMOTION: None other than the W.W.F. Who else could give us such great and thrilling feuds as Valentine vs. Muraco and Beefcake vs. Bass. Who else could have inflicted a no-talent such as the Honkytonk Man on us as a champion, and then, when his time was up, to have replaced him with someone like the Ultimate Warrior, who makes Honkytonk look like Lou Thesz in comparison. And last, but certainly least, who else gave us consistently poor pay-per-view shows with announcers such as Gorilla Monsoon, Ron Trongard, and Superstar Graham? If not for that sweetheart deal with NBC, past reputation, and the fact that Crockett is spelled j-a-c-k-a-s-s, Vince would have been up the proverbial river without a paddle long ago. Oh well, tomorrow is another day.

WORST WRESTLER: Got to give this one to the Junkyard Dog, a man whose career was one of lousy wrestling and a great gizmo. Unfortunately, the gizmo has worn thin and the wrestling still stinks. But what would I consider the Dog when he wrestles in the same Federation with the Ultimate Warrior? The answer is that as bad as the Dog is, I still consider him a wrestler. I have never considered the Warrior to be anything remotely resembling a wrestler.

WORST ANNOUNCER: How about Ron Trongard, Superstar Graham and David Crockett, with Marc Lowerence in reserve. The problem is that as wrestling grows ever more stale, the liabilities of the announcers are more glaring because we tend to listen more to them to relieve the boredom of seeing a Valentine-Muraco match for the umpteenth time.

WORST TELEVISION SHOW: Each has their faults, from Vince's circus to Crockett's nightmares. But both Vince and Crockett have one thing in common-both show little actual wrestling. Crockett shows dozens of matches that only last two minutes at the most, and Vince is too busy with childish angles and skits to pay much attention to the wrestling. Or, maybe with Vince, that is the point: the wrestling is so horrible that it maybe better to take our attention off of it. For a truly bad television show, try "Prime Time Wrestling" on USA. Gorilla Monsoon and Bobby Heenan must be entertaining themselves with those stupid antics, because they aren't entertaining the viewers, as is being proven by the nosedive in the ratings. It isn't so much that the show is stupid, but that it is relentlessly stupid. Monsoon and Heenan's antics couldn't sustain a community access show, much less this. Vince's television will come back to haunt him.

WORST PAY-PER-VIEW SHOW: Based on past performances and sheer hype, Wrestlemania IV was by far the worst show of the year. The idea of a one-day tournament was ridiculous to begin with, considering the work-rates of the WWF wrestlers. And it went downhill quickly from there. Hogan's interference in the Savage-DiBiase final match only served to depreciate the new champion and make him secondary to the Ego himself. Most of the matches were non-matches, lacking in action and length. Andre's performance with Hogan bordered on the pathetic, and the only highlight was the announcing of Jesse Ventura, who received a huge ovation from the crowd; and he wasn't even wrestling! Summer Slam was also a bad show, but in a different way. McMahon attempted here to put over a regular Garden show as a pay-per-view spectacle. And it worked. However, the fallout is still to be appreciated, and the Survivor Series may be the first victim. Crockett's pay-per-view shows were, for the most part, clearly non-entities and not even worthy of consideration, unless you are a Dusty Rhodes fan, and uf that is the case, there is no hope for you in any event.

WORST INTERVIEW: This was actually the most hotly contested category of the year, with the likes of Steve Williams, Andre the Giant, Tommy Rich, and Jim Duggan all vying for the top. On sheer incoherence, I have to give the award to Tommy Rich. For winning, Tommy will receive a plaster cast of Jimmy Snuka diving off the cliffs of Fiji onto hard coral. And that's all there is, bruddah.

WORST MANAGER: Once again, it is Mr. Fuji, hands down. His pathetic face paint, his mumbling interviews, and his total inability to attract heat make him our clear winner. Perhaps he could manage Tommy Rich.

WORST CASE OF INGRATITUDE: Vince McMahon for his handling of Adrian Adonis' death with respect to the folks from Entertainment Tonight. Not only did Adonis never exist, he also never worked for Vince.

WORST CASE OF MEGALOMANIA: Verne Gagne, who still believes and acts as if he is still a force to be reckoned with in the world of wrestling. Please wake up and smell the coffee, Verne.

WORST ATTEMPT AT VENTRILOQUISM: Bobby Heenan and Gorilla Monsoon, who during the USA televised WWF matches from Paris, actually tried to make us think they were broadcasting from France instead of Connecticut. No dice, fellows.

WORST ROAD WARRIOR IMPRESSION: (1) Powers of Pain (2) Demolition (3) Road Warriors.

WORST HIRING: NWA for hiring Junkyard Dog. They'll find out.

WORST ACTING: Andre the Giant for his performance during the Jake the Snake and the fear of snakes routine. His histronics proved more funny than anything else, especially to the ringside spectators. And did you get a load of those "doctors" who came to assist the fallen Giant? Not even Snoopy and Met Life would grant you a check with those quacks around.

WORST ATTEMPT AT IMITATING A BLACK PERSON OR WORST ATTEMPT AT CEMENTING RACE RELATIONS: (1) Akeem (aka One Man Gang) (2) Dusty Rhodes, who for years has been doing a bad Muhammad Ali impression, and (3) Slick.

ED FARHAT LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Dusty Rhodes in a close race over Antonio Inoki. Dusty's motto: Rule No. 1, Push thyself; Rule No. 2, If this fails, see Rule No. 1.

WORST ARGUMENT FOR RELIGION: Fritz Von Erich.

WORST IMPRESSION OF "PIPER'S PIT": Brother Love and his beyond stale interview segments. Although Bruce gives it his best, the format itself quickly became stale and it now seems to be a parody of a parody.

WORST HANDSHAKE: Hogan and Savage seemingly taking forever to lock their hands in their "Megapowers" handshake. You'd think they were Freemasons or something.

WORST CASE OF INFANTILE SEXUALITY AWARD: Vince McMahon, whose Ric Rude/Cheryl Roberts/Jake Roberts and Randy/Hulk/Elizabeth angles reek of Kraft-Ebing, Freud, and Dr. Ruth. And Vince tries to pass off this crap as "family entertainment". The Adams family, perhaps, but not the normal American Family.

WORST EXPLOITATION OF ETHNIC STEREOTYPES: Again, our old friend Vince, for not only giving us Akeem and Slick, but also for pushing his French-Canadian heels. To us Americans, all the hoopla over the Fluer-de-Lis flags seems incomprehensible. But keep in mind that in Canada, there exists basic hatreds and tension between English-speaking and French-speaking citizens. Vince is simply packaging hatreds for the mass consumption of Canadian audiences. How low can one get?

PHANNIE OF THE YEAR: For the worst indiscretion committed during the year; the worst lapse of good taste; the most asinine stunt. This year's award goes once again to Vince McMahon for the pre-Wrestlemania IV travesty he committed on February's "Saturday night's Main Event". He had a good thing going when he decided to have Hogan drop the belt to Andre, but was compelled to ruin it by use of the "evil twin referee" gimmick. In all my years of following wrestling, I have never witnessed anything that stupid committed by a major promotion. It reeked of G.L.O.W. and definitely aimed towards the ten-year old male mind, the sort that reads comic books. Watching this with non-wrestling fans, I was actually embarrassed to admit I was a wrestling fan for the first time in my life. I could always explain away other oddities to anyone's satisfaction, but in this case, I could not defend what was basically non-defensible.

JEOPARDY ANSWERS (or questions)

WHODUNNIT

100-Who is King Kong Bundy?
200-Who was Jon Paul?
300-who is Bad News Brown and why is he still wrestling?
400-who is Jim Duggan and why?
500-Who was Dave Hebner and why didn't they note that he was the reason for the tournament in the first place?

NUMBERS

100-How many PPV events were there in 1988/
200-Who was Ron garvin?
300-What is four?
400-What is the tag titles changing hands?
500-How many times did the Southern Rockers WIN the tag titles there?

PROBLEMS

100-Who is Chris Adams?
200-Who is Misty Blue Sims?
300-Who is Barry O(rton)?
400-Who is matt Borne?
500-Who is John Ayers?

ALIASES

100-Who is Rip Morgan?
200-Who was Buddy Rose?
300-who was Joe Pedicino?
400-who was Solomond Grundy?
500-Who were Rip Rogers and Kerry Brown?

SILLINESS

100-What has better scripting and more believable characters than the WWF?
200-What did the talking scales say when Abdullah the Butcher stepped on?
300-How does Nicolai Volkoff imitate Cary Grant?
400-What hold did Tommy Young perfect while refereeing the Triple tower of Doom match?
500-What was Verne Gagne's pay scale for wrestlers at Superclash III?

WORST IMITATION OF KILLER KARL KOX: Without a doubt it can only be Rick Steiner and his hand-me-down friend, Alex. A lot of people think Rick is doing an ersatz George Steele, but he is actually doing a cross between Steele and Kox, who, in Florida, also had a "friend" called Alex with whom he had long discussions and received much advice. But unlike Steiner, Kox had the good taste to keep his friend invisible.

WORST JOHN WAYNE IMPERSONATION: Dusty Rhodes and his extremely lame imitation of Rooster Cogburn from "True Grit". I mean, I knew that Cogburn only had one eye, drank, and was cantankerous, but I didn't know he was also a fat slob.

STOP KICKING A DEAD HORSE AWARD: To the Four Horsemen, who surely have had more incarnations than Shirley McLaine. The list has grown so large that one could conceivably have a Horsemen Alumni club in the near future. In any case, it should be dropped as it is now a self-parody.

WORST BOOT CAMP MATCH: The Sarge vs. Colonel Debeers in Superclash III. Although in reality the Sarge truly typifies the state of readiness of our armed forces, a boot camp match is still no place to pathetically blow up. And whoever heard of such a match that did not have a clear winner. Are we readying a rematch for Superclash IV? Also the intrusion of a relic such as Adnan El-Kaissey placed the emphasis on the word "camp" that the promoters couldn't have foreseen. Hey, Verne's just not that smart.

1988 HEADLINES

TOP STORIES OF THE YEAR MONTH BY MONTH

The following is a look back at the year 1988 by month with the top stories from the promotions in capsule form.

JANUARY 1988

The NWA got their first real chance at Pay Per View with a 1/24 show from Nassau Coliseum in New York featuring the finals of the Bunkhouse Stampedes...the show was countered by the WWF and its first Royal Rumble on the USA network. The Royal Rumble ended up being the most watched show ever on the USA network. Ken Mantell bought a controlling interest in the World Class promotion and started filtering in his Wild West wrestlers. Jerry Lawler and Bill Dundee sqared off in a series of babyface vs babyface matches in Memphis feuling rumors of an eventual Dundee turn. Terry Taylor also debuted in Memphis. The Midnight Rockers were given the AWA tag team belts.

FEBRUARY 1988

Wrestling returned to network television after a 33 year absence with a WWF Prime Time Special on 2/5/88. Hogan lost his belt on the show to Andre the Giant who then relinquished the belt to Ted DiBiase, thus seting up the Wrestlemania angle. The show drew a 15.2 rating and won its time slot however, managed only 31st place among the week's shows. The AWA bid farewell to the Twin cities and the Minneapolis Auditorium with a Farewell card on 2/4. Greg Gagne pinned Curt Henning in a cage for the world title but the decision was later overtured and the belt returned to Hennig. Adrian Adonis broke an ankle in a TV match and was put out of action for a while. In the NWA, the Powers of Pain attacked the Road Warriors during a bench press contest in which Animal suffered a legit eye injury. Also, Babydoll claimed to have compromising pictures of Dusty Rhodes and threatened to blackmail him. Brother Ernest Angel made his debut on Memphis TV sparking a ton of phone calls to the station and promotion. His character was later toned down and proved to be inspiration for Brother Love. Dundee finally turned heel on Lawler and the revolving door policy continued as Terry Taylor departed for World Class. ken Mantell began short lived negotiations with the NWA on a talent exchange.

MARCH 1988

Wrestlemania IV saw Randy Savage take the world title and a six percent buyrate on Pay Per View. The NWA countered with the first of a series of Clash of Champions shows. The 65 translated into approximately 590,000 homes and it is estimated that the free Clash show on WTBS cost Titan 98,000 homes. The Clash show featured what our voters picked as match of the year, a forty five minute time limit draw between Sting and Ric Flair. Angles after Wrestlemania included Jim Duggan knocking out Andre the Giant with his two by four and Rick Rude trying to pick up Jake Roberts' wife. the AWA began cooperating with Memphis spawning rumors that Jarrett had bought out the Gagne family. Eddie Gilbert returned to Memphis to feud with Jerry Lawler resulting in some of the hottest footage in recent memory. Included was an incident that led to the parking lot of the TV studios and Gilbert slamming Lawler through the windshield of a car. The Renegades Rampage continued with the winner to get a quarter million dollars. In World Class, Kerry won the world title from AL Perez after making a successful comeback and the Freebirds returned only to split up at the now famous concert in memory of David and Mike Von Erich. ESPN began broadcasting Legends of World Class which featured matches from 1983-1986.

APRIL 1988

Sting and lex Luger won he third annual Crockett Cup In Greensboro NC. They had not entered as a team, at the beginning of the two day tournament, however, earlier in the week, Barry Windham had turned heel on his partner Lex Luger which resulted in a last minute pairing of the two. The Midnight Rider appeared on the NWA scene after Dusty Rhodes was suspended. Dusty had come to the aid of Magnum TA after he was attacked by Tully Blanchard and JJ Dillon. The WWF took time off following Wrestlemania but some of the stars toured Europe wrestling in Germany, Italy, France and Switzerland. Harley Race had an operation that removed part of his intestines after a rupture. The AWA started regularly showing clips of wrestlers who at one time had been in the AWA but now worked for other promotions. World Class announced that the Parade of champions would feature a triple tower of doom match. Michaels Hayes, fresh in from a stint with the NWA had taken the idea from Dusty Rhodes' drawing board. Bruno Sammartino was fired from his job as part of the WWF Superstars announcing team.

MAY 1988

Jerry Lawler finally realized his dream of becoming a world champ by pinning Curt Hennig for the AWA title in Memphis before a sold out Mid South Coliseum. Dusty Rhodes returned to wrestling following a miserable failure in the Midnight Rider gimmick. Barry windham won the vacant US title in a one night tournament in houston by defeating Nikita Koloff. The first rumors of ted Turner buying the financially troubled NWA surfaced but were dismissed by both sides. Hulk Hogan became the proud papa of a ten pound baby girl on 5/5/88. Bubba Rogers debuted in the WWF as Bossman. The Rougeau brothers began a subtle heel turn. In the World Class area, the 5th annual Parade of Champions took place with the triple tower of doom match topping the card. It received mixed reactions from fans. Also, the World Class office began a short lived association with Bob Geigel's Central States. British television announced it was cancelling its weekly wrestling show on IVC (an independent network) after 33 years due to declining ratings.

JUNE 1988

The nWA presented the second in a series of Clash of Champions broadcasts on Superstation TBS. The Rock and Roll Express returned to the NWA after the AWA announced hat they had them under contract. Kevin Sullivan began eyeing Jimmy Garvin's wife/valet Precious for an angle that would later have them battling in a triple tower of doom. The AWA added a few stations to its syndication network including some on the east coast that had been with Crockett. The Rockers, Bossman and Brother Love all debuted in the WWF. Billy Graham officially retired to the announcing booth. Rick Martel left wrestling altogether. Scott Steiner won the six month long Renegades Rampage in Memphis. Eric Embry took over the booking chores from Michael Hayes in World Class and introduced the Samoan Swat Team (managed by Buddy Roberts) and Kamala.

JULY 1988

Tragedy struck several times during the month with four wrestlers losing their lives. Bruiser Brody was murdered in a Puerto Rican dressing room on July 16. His alleged attacker, Jose Huertas Gonzales, continued to wrestle on the card and the next night before surrendering to police. The preliminary motive was over the finish of a match. Adrian Adonis, David McKigney, and Pat Kelly were all killed in an automobile accident on july 4 in Nova Scotia. The van in which they were riding veered off the road to avoid a deer and went down a steep incline crashing into a boulder before ending up in a stream. Mike Kelly was the only survivor of the crash. The NWA began a six week tour of the United States with the Great American Bash tour. Ringside seats went for $50.00 each with most having a pre match get together with the wrestlers. Their show from Baltimore featured a main event of Flair vs Luger and was broadcast nationwide via Pay Per View. The attendance average 5000-8000 per show during this time. Rumors of a Turner buyout became red hot with neither side denying the rumors anymore. The powers of Pain jumped from the nWA to the WWF and Hulk Hogan made his return to the ring in Milwaukee on 7/31. Islander Haku was crowned the new king of wrestling by Bobby Heenan. In Memphis, Robert Fuller became the booker and immediately set himself up as the lead heel, doing several interviews per show and a run in after almost every babyface match. The seed was planted for a Lawler - Von Erich unification match sometime in the future. Independent promoters and World Class held tributes to Bruiser Brody.

AUGUST 1988

The WWF presented another Pay Per View event, this one from Madison Square Garden called Summerslam. The main event featured Randy Savage teaming with Hulk Hogan to battle Ted DiBiase and Andre the Giant. The show also featured several ads for Titan's first venture into the Boxing game promoting the bout between Sugar Ray Leonard and Donnie LeLonde. Robert Gibson left eh Rock and Roll Express with Ricky Morton not far behind. Gibson quit over a paycheck dispute. The Midnight Express started a short lived feud with Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson over the World Tag belts. Curt Hennig left the AWA and finally joined with Titan. The AWA dropped hints at a big announcement but week after week on the weekly show, they had "just one more detail to work out." Ken Mantell was forced out of the World Class office by the Von Erichs. he promised to start up Wild West wrestling once again in a different locale but as of this writing has not been heard from.

SEPTEMBER 1988

The WWF picked up quite a few stars as Hennig, Owen Hart, Terry Taylor all arrived. Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson jumped from the NWA, dropping the World Tag belts to the Midnight Express with just one night's notice. They surfaced in the WWF as well under the tutaleage of Bobby Heenan under the name, the Brainbusters. The AWA combined forces with Memphis and World Class to present three shows in Tennessee. The three shows resulted in nine hours (or nine weeks) worth of TV tapes which the AWA used to survive until their December PPV show. Bam Bam Bigelow signed with the NWA. Continental Wrestling fired Eddie Gilbert and Paul E Dangerously. In Memphis, Brickhouse Brown turned babyface for the umteenth time. Also the battle of Tennessee vs Texas began. The Samoan Swat Team won a unified title match from Wild West tag champs John Tatum and Jimmy Jack Funk. Crockett was rumored to be talking with World Class about buying into the promotion.

OCTOBER 1988

Ted Turner became the offical owner of the NWA. The buyout ended many months of speculation. The United Association of Wrestling Fans held their first convention in Memphis October 7-11. More than sixty fans from around the country and canada were in attendance to meet wrestlers Lou Thesz, Al Costello, Eddie Gilbert, paul E Dangerously, Missy Hyatt, the Tokyo Bullets, Windy City promoter Sam DeCero, Cora and Debbie Combs, Downtown Bruno and world Champion Jerry Lawler. The Road Warriors turned heel during a six man tag match with Sting. Titan inked a deal with NBC for six to eight Saturday Night's Main Events during the coming year as well as three Prime time specials. Details were announced on the second Survivor Series. The Fed toured europe again and fired both Junk Yard Dog and Don Muraco while overseas. Jerry Jarrett bought a controlling interest in the World Class shop, virtually merging the Memphis group with them. The Road Warriors won the NWA tag titles.

NOVEMBER L988

Ted Turner went to work immediately on revamping the NWA by signing new talent. Paul E Dangerously and the Original Midnight Express were introduced on WTBS when they ran in and attacked Jim Cornette and his Midnight Express.in what would become known as the angle of the year. Abdullah the Butcher also made his debut under the guidance of Gary Hart. "They Live" starring Roddy Piper was released in theatres nationwide to mixed reviews. The John Carpenter movie was the number one grossing box office attraction for its first two weeks in the threatres. The WWF ran its second Survivor Series from suburban Cleveland. The PPV numbers were down a bit from last year, but the seed was planted for an eventual randy Savage-Hulk Hogan break up. It was learned that Kerry Von Erich had his foot amputated after the motorcycle accident two years ago. He had managed to keep the fact a secret through various means. During a match with Colonel DeBeers at an AWA TV taping in Las Vegas, DeBeers pulled on the boot of kerry's bad foot and the boot came off revealing the amputated stump. Kerry continued to deny his foot was amputated claiming that his ankle had been surgically fused in place.

DECEMBER 1988

The AWA, Memphis and World Class promotions got together and presented Superclash III on Pay Per View from Chicago. The main event featured the unification of World Class and AWA belts with Jerry Lawler winning a bloodbath that was stopped on account of blood. The Illinois State athletic Commission almost stopped the match from taking place citing a rule that prevented wrestling or bosing matches from taking place when a participant lacked either both legs, feet or hands. It was later ruled that Kerry would be "exhibiting wrestling holds" and not actually competing in a wrestling match, therefore he was allowed to wrestle. The AWA had lined up Larry Zbyszko in case Kerry had not been allowed to wrestle. Starrcade 88 was held in Norfolk VA on December 26th, the first time in the history of the event that it was not held on Thanksgiving night. The main event saw Ric Fliar use the ropes to pin lex Luger after a 30+ minute bout. The AWA did a ½% buyrate on PPV combined with a live gate of $25,000. The NWA show generated a live gate of between $150,000 and 200,000 with an estimated buyrate of 2%.

THE WRESTLING BAROMETER
1988

BY JEFF SIEGEL

The Wrestling Barometer has become one of the most popular monthly features in Wrestling Forum Jeff came up with the idea over a year ago to provide a monthly look at what was hot and what was not in wrestling. The idea has taken off and attracts the attention of fans and wrestlers alike. Here we have taken the results from 1988 and assembled them in order of points for a review of the year. They are listed in order of points received followed by the month the entry appeared plus its ranking for that month. A review of the months follows.

WHAT WAS HOT

63½ points - 2/5 Double ref angle (Febraury #1)
58 points - Barry Windham turns heel (May #1)
56 points - Paul E & Original Midnights attack Jim Cornette and Midnight Express (November #1)
54 points - UAWF Convention in Memphis (October #1)
47 points - Wrestlemania speculation (February #2)
46 points - Hogan-DiBiase-Andre angle (January #1)
42 points - Rotundo-Steiner arguments (September #1)
41 points - Dusty removed as booker (December #1)
39 points - Hennig signs with Titan (August #1)
38½ points - Varsity Club break up (October #2)
36½ points - Flair-Luger Starrcade match (December #2)
35 points - Wrestlemania speculation (January #2)
32½ points - Powers of Pain jump to WWF (July #1)
31 points - Varsity Club Angle (March #1)
31 points - Gilbert/Hyatt in Memphis (March #1)
30½ points - Road warrior turn (November #2)
29 points - Triple Tower of Doom (May #2)
29 points - Owen Hart in WWF (September #2)
28½ points - Clash of Champions (April #1)
27½ points - Wrestlemania speculation (March #3)
27½ points - Eddie Gilbert's booking (August #2)
27½ points - Billy Jack Haynes-Don Owen war (May #3)
26½ points - WWF Primetime special on NBC (January #3)
26½ points - WCCW resurgence (March #4)
25½ points - Rougeau act (September #3)
24 points - Ron Garvin turn heel (July #2)
22½ points - Barry Windham turn heel (June #1)
22½ points - NWA sale (November #3)
22 points - Varsity Club (February #3)
22 points - Crockett counter to WMIV (March #5)
22 points - Michael Hayes steals tower angle for WCCW (May #4)
22 points - Overall Starrcade show (December #3)
22 points - impending Hogan-Savage break up (December #3)
21½ points - resurgence of WCCW (February #4)
21 points - Billy Jack Haynes' new promotion (April #2)
20½ points - Midnight Express-Fantastics feud (May #5)
20 points - Paul E Dangerously's "I HATE AWA Danger Zones (Feb #5)
20 points - Rude Awakening/Jake's Wife (May #6)
19 points - Brother Love Segments (August #3)
18½ points - Midnight vs Midnight feud (December #5)
18 points - Windy City promotion (August #4)
18 points - Road Warrior turn (October #3)
18 points - Lawler as world champ (June #2)
17½ points - Midnight Express-Fantastics brawls (April #3)
17 points - Road to Birmingham tournament (September #4)
16½ points - Bossman gimmick (June #3)
16 points - Turner-Crockett deal (September #5)
16 points - Fresh talent in NWA (November #4)
15½ points - NWA hype for 7/10 PPV (July #3)
15 points - Steiner as NWA TV Champ (December #6)

WHAT WAS NOT HOT

42 points - Akeem skit (October #1)
41½ points - Andre's performance/suplex (February #1)
38½ points - NWA Nassau PPV show (January #1)
38½ points - Midnight Rider Angle (May #1)
38 points - Dusty's ego (March #1)
37½ points - Dusty's ego/booking/blackmail angle (February #2)
37 points - WWF Survivor Series II (November #1)
37 points - POWW lingerie battle royal (December #1)
36½ points - Fritz' heart attack (January #2)
36 points - Warrior wins IC title (September #1)
35 points - Lawler-Kerry finish at Superclash (December #2)
34½ points - Turner-Crockett deal (September #2)

33½ points - Lawler-Kerry unification (November #2)
31 points - Four Horsemen vitamins (May #2)
31 points - Road Warrior demise (August #1)
31 points - Summerslam (August #1)
29 points - the NWA (February #3)
28½ points - Ivan Koloff's turn (October #2)
27 points - Wrestlemania IV (April #1)
27 points - Eddie Gilbert leaving CWF (October #3)
25½ points - Dick Murdoch turn (August #3)
25½ points - Brother Love Segments (July #1)
25 points - Duggan Andre Feud (May #3)
24 points - Current NWA angles (January #3)
24 points - Mathilda's kidnapping (January #3)
23 points - New King Haku (July #2)
22½ points - Midnight Rider (April #2)
22½ points - Rougeau turn (May #4)
21½ points - Luger Flair 7/10 finish (July #3)
21½ points - Superstar Graham-Rodger Kent announcing team (July #3)
21 points - Wrestlemania IV undercard (March #2)
21 points - Titan boxing promos (September #3)
20½ points - Bench press contents (February #4)
20 points - Hercules-Warrior feud (March #3)
20 points - Dusty Babydoll blackmail angle (March #3)
20 points - Rooster gimmick (November #3)
19 points - Great American Bash potential (June #1)
19 points - Tully & Arn in WWF (October #4)
18½ points - Beefcake-Valentine feud (january #5)
18½ points - Rougeau turn (June #2)
18½ points - Leonard-LeLonde promos (November #4)
17 points - Orton & Adonis in AWA (January #6)
17 points - nate the Rat (you had to be ther) (October #5)
16 points - Four Horsemen Vitamins (April #3)
16 points - JCP Payroll problems (June #3)
16 points - Rock n Roll Express return to NWA (July #5)
16 points - King Haku skit (August #4)
15 points - Bossman gimmick (June #4)
15 points - Titan's travel policy (July #6)
15 points - Beefcake's stale routine (July #6)

JANUARY NOTES

Titan made a clear sweep of what's hot centering around the 2/5 show and Wrestlemania IV speculation. The NWA just missed the 15point minimum qualifier of putting four additional entries into the NOT side along with the Nassau PPV show (#1) and current angles (#3).

FEBRUARY NOTES

Wrestlemania IV specualtion was on the HOT side for the second month in a row. World Class made the hot side for the first time in history with Ken Mantell's booking. NWA grabs #2-4 on the NOT side with Dusty's ego/booking/blackmail angle, the NWA as a whole and the bench press contests.

MARCH NOTES

The Varsity club checked in on the HOT side for a second month in a row along with the World Class resurgence. Dusty remains on the NOT side with two entries: his ego and the blackmail skit with Babydoll.

APRIL NOTES§

The NOT side saw Wrestlemania top the NWA's two entries (Midnight Rider and vitamins), but the NWA scored on the HOT side with the Midnights-Fantastics brawls and the Clash of Champions I. Billy Jack Haynes stirred interest in his promotion however temporary it was.

MAY NOTES

Dusty's ego took the top spot on the NOT side for the second time in three months. Tower of Doom (NWA style) took the #2 spot on HOT side with Michael Hayes' theft of the idea coming in at #4.

JUNE NOTES

Bossman became first to ever be on both sides of ledger in the same month. Rougeaus were on NOT side for second month in a row, mainly due to the clarity of the turn.

JULY NOTES

Titan checks in with 5 of 7 on NOT side. Dusty conspicuously absent from either side for first time in many months. NWA makes a clean sweep of HOT with Powers of Pain jump, Garvin turn and the 7/10 show hype.

AUGUST NOTES

Brother Love makes a miraculous switch from the NOT side in previous month to HOT side this time around. Chicagoland was excited about their new independent Windy City Wrestling. Gilbert's creativity hits #2 behind the Hennig jump to Titan. Dusty absent for second month in a row.

SEPTEMBER NOTES

The Turner Crockett deal showed up on both sides of the ledger. After taking a month to clarify the Rougeau turn, it paid off as they jumped to the HOT side at #3.

OCTOBER NOTES

Not much HOT as UAWF confab in Memphis took the number one spot. Varsity Club continued to do well being on the HOT side four out of the first ten months in one form or another. akeem's NOT HOT votes were the most any NOT entry has received this year.

NOVEMBER NOTES

NWA turns itself around with four entries on the HOT side while the WWF checks in with three of four on NOT side. The Road Warriors gain momentum as their turn makes the HOT list for the second month in a row.

DECEMBER NOTES

NWA ends the year strong with five of top six on HOT list. Only the impending Savage-Hogan breakup kept it from being a clean sweep.

1988 WRESTLERS' ACTIVITIES

In our 1986 Yearbook, we listed each wrestler who had competed in the United states during the year (or at least those who had some sort of a push) along with major feuds, championships, etc. in an attempt to emulate a high school year book. We did not include his feature last year and many complained. So here, with the help of Dave Meltzer, Steve Sims, Ed garea, Joel kolsrud, Randy Smith and many more, is the 1988 WRESTLER ACTIVITIES. Names in parenthesis are the wrestler's real names.

ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER (Larry Shreeve) - Abby spent a better portion of 1988 working for the smaller independents, wrecking havoc wherever he went. He began the year working for All Japan before returning stateside to Puerto Rico. The rest of the winter was spent mainly in the south, working independents including Southern Championship Wrestling in Georgia under the managership of Paul E. Dangerously. March saw another tour of Japan. Returning to the US in April he teamed with Kamala in the SCW promotion. He was sidelined with gall bladder surgery in March but returned to Georgia in June, alternating between there and Puerto Rico. He worked a Windy City card before touring Japan again in late August-early September. He was entered in the tournament in Puerto Rico to crown a new Universal Champion in October and entered the NWA later that month under Paul Jones. He let the Road warriors snack on danger and dine on death while he preferred wood announcer's podiums. He returned to All Japan in November-december to take part in the annual tag team tournament with partner Tiger Jeet Singh.

JOHNNY ACE (John Laurendias) - The real life brother of Road warrior Animal began the year in the menial role of the flag bearer for the Sheepherders. He turned babyface in April after hitting one of them with the pole one too many times. Still, he teamed with John Savage at the Crockett Cup as a heel tag team before the incident aired on TV. he left the NWA shortly thereafter and joined Billy jack Haynes' OWF where he was teamed with the Terminator (brother Marc laurendias) and billed as the Junior Road Warriors. His stay there lasted through mid summer when he took off for Florida Championship Wrestling. He toured Japan from 8/20-9/9, returning to Florida where he reformed the tag team with The Terminator. They won the area's tag team championships in September, but los them to the Nasty Boys in October. He teamed with Dan Spivey in the All Japan tag tourney in November & December.

BRIAN ADAMS (Brian Adams) - billed as the American Ninja, Brian worked the first couple of months for Don Owen in the Pacific Northwest as a babyface (despite his use of a kendo stick). He feuded with Grappler and Abuddah Dein but eventually lost a loser leave town match to rip Oliver setting up a tour with New Japn in March. When he returned, he went to work for Haynes' OWF, teaming with former Owen-ite Mike Miller. Together they captured the OWF tag team championships from Coco Samoa and Tiger Chung Lee one night before the promotion folded. He hooked up with Mel saracino's pacific Coast Championship Wrestling before the promotion got off the ground. He worked for the CWA in Memphis as a babyface for a time in November before returning to Oregon and the PCCW in December.

CHRIS ADAMS (Chris Adams) - Working World Class as a babyface, he helped he Von Erichs in their feud with the Freebirds to start off the year. He split some time with Puerto Rico as well. His own feuds were worked with terry Gordy and Terry Taylor which was a continuation of the feud these twohad in the old UWF. While working for Central States in March (while WCCW and CS had a working agreement), he was potatoed by a Mike George dropkick which required stiches and left him with a black eye. He continued to split his time between promotions feuding wth Taylor in the WCCW (who was said to have paid George to hurt him) and George. He was fired from the WCCW in May for promoting his own shows in and around the Dallas area. He worked for Southern Championship during June and feuded there with Manny fernandez. he won the Southern championship. He dropped that title to Moondog Spot in August (we still don't know if ths was an office change or not) then worked wherever he could find work including the CWF in Alabama, Central states and Puerto Rico (where he was entered into the first round to crown a new universal champion). Adams ran a few of his own shows in the Dallas area during the fall before returning to WCCW. He continued to work for other independents such as the ICW on the east coast.

BRIAN ADIAS (Brian Glower) - Not much of a year for Adias as he worked more or less prelims in WCCW to begin with. He took part in the Wild West vs WCCW matches, ending up on the losing end most of the time. He went to work for Chris Adams' independent in May-June and never worked very regularly since then.

ADRIAN ADONIS (Keith franke) - In January, Adrian came to the AWA, dropping the gay act for the most part. He teamed with former bodyguard Bob Orton in Japan for a week in january before returning to the US. He returned once again to the AWA where in February, broke his ankle in a squash match against ricky Rice. Adonis supposedly stepped in a "hole" in the ring while doing a criss-cross. he was out of action until the end of May when he made his final tour of Japan teaming with his old partner Dick Murdoch while there. He returned to go to work in the Grand

Prix circuit in Canada. It was there, while riding to a night's card that the van in which he was riding, swerved to miss a moose in the road, crashed, and killed Adonis along with passengers "Wildman" Dave McKigney and Pat Kelly of the Kelly Twins tag team.

AKEEM-ONE MAN GANG (George Gray) - Working through the first nine months of he year as One man Gang, Akeem's push looked like a profit and loss chart. he began he year in a feud with Bam Bam Bigelow in whch they exchanged count out victories around the country. At Wrestlemania IV, he beat Bigelow by Count out in the tournament, received a bye in the second round and lost via DQ to Savage in the semi finals. Over the next couple of months he got clean victories over Bigelow at house shows along with a few over Hacksaw Jim Duggan as well. During he summer months, little was seen of Akeem/Gang as he spent the time growing back the hair he had previously shaved into a mohawk. He appeared in the fall with hair, beating Junk Yard Dog in a series of opening matches before the angle was shown of him turning into Akeem the African Dream. He worked the Paris show in October before returning to team with Bossman setting up a feud wth Hogan-Savage, which eventually will lead to the Wrestlemana V match up.

ARN ANDERSON (Marty Lunde) - With tully Blanchard, Arn began the year as half of the NWA ag team champions. His part in the four horsemen assured him a feud with Lex Luger and all of Luger's newfound friends. They lost the tag titles to Luger/Windham on the 3/27 Clash of Champions show, but continued to be seeded number one for the Crocket Cup. They won back the tag titles just prior to the Cup when they helped Windham turn on Luger. Arn continued his own personal feud with Lex through the summer months and being that he was the only one in the horsemen willing to do jobs, he took his share of pinfalls. During the Grat American Bash tours, he was invovled not only with Blanchard but also the rest of the Horsemen (Flair & Windham) in six and eight man tag matches. After the Bashes, he and Tully began a short lived feud with Jim Cornette and the Midnight Express. They dropped the belts to the Express in September a night before jumping to the WWF where they became known as the Brainbusters under the manager-ship of Bobby Heean. They finished the year in a feud with the Rockers.

ANDRE THE GIANT (Andre Rousimof) - To set Andre up as the ultimate, invincible heel, he won a SNME Battle Royal (actually taped in December of 1987), destroying everythng in sight. Ted DiBiase bought his contract from Bobby Heenan with Ted saying that Andre would win the title from Hogan and then present it to him. The match against Hogan was signed on the USA Network's Royal Rumble and ended with Andre overturning the table on Hogan and leaving him for dead. On February 5, Andre "pinned" Hogan for the title on NBC's first Prime time wrestling event in 33 years. He immediately awarded his newly gained title (Tag team championship as Andre called it twice) to DiBiase.

WWF President Jack Tunney ruled that the title would be held up due to a violation of WWF rules, thus stripping Andre of the title and giving him the shortest reign of any champion in history. In the Wrestlemania tournament, he drew a first round bye and faced Hogan in the second round going to a double DQ with the former champion. Heenan regained control of his contract after WMIV. On the next set of TV tapings which aired in April, Andre was knocked cold by Jim Duggan and his 2 x 4 setting up a feud that would last till early summer. Andre attacked Randy Savage during an interview spot that set up a series of matches between the two, culminating in the SummerSlam 88 PPV with him teaming with Ted vs Hogan and Savage. In October, he returned with the WWF to his native France for the tour of Europe. In another Saturday Night's main Event angle, a feud erupted between the giant and Jake the Snake when Jake "snaked" Andre revealing the giant's Achilles heel: fear of snakes. The feud continued through the end of the year.

(Tom Sturdivan)

BROTHER ERNEST ANGEL (????) - In a takeoff of televangelists, Ernest made his debut in Memphis in February amid a rash of protests and controversy. His parody of TV preachers was too good and many in the Bible belt objected. His gimmick was basically saving wrestling souls and establishing a "Wrestling Villiage USA" similar to the other TV preachers. His first team was Gary Young and Max Pain who he knicknamed the Choirboys. Later in the spring, he brought in the Cuban Choirboys along with gary Young, Max Pain and Brickhouse Brown. Shortly thereafter he left the CWA and worked a few dates for Continental managing the Samoan team. He returned briefly to the CWA in June before returning to Alabama for a couple of weeks. He seemingly vanished from the face of the earth by July, allegedly leaving in his wake a string of NSF checks and law enforcement agencies hot on his trail.

ANGEL OF DEATH/RUSSIAN ASSASSIN #1 (David Sheldon) - Following a knee injury whle working Japan in 1987, Angel did very little actual wrestling in the beginning of the year, instead doing mainly interviews along with Iceman Parsons and Buddy Roberts as part of the new Freebirds. An old feud with Michael Hayes surfaced when Hayes returned to World Class in March. Roberts sold his contract to Vince Apollo in March in an attempt to reunite the Freebirds since there were hard feelings between Angel and Hayes. April saw a continuing feud with the Von Erichs and an angle where Angel tried to help cut Hayes' hair. With his push at an almost complete standstill, he teamed with Vince Apollo at the Parade of Champions before leaving the World Class area to don a mask as Russian Assassin #1 in the NWA. There he teamed with Ivan Koloff under Paul Jones and feuded with The Road Warriors. he was one of the participants in the Triple Tower of Doom making him the only wrestler who appeared at both the World Class show and the NWA show which featured the same gimmick. He eventually began

feuding with former partner Ivan Koloff teaming with russian Assassin #2 and Ivan was joined by Nikita. The assassins won their match at Starrcade against Ivan and junk Yard Dog.

TONY ANTHONY (Anthony Anthony) - AKA the Dirty White Boy, Tony and his valet Mystic spent the entire year working in the Continental area. He was just ending a feud with the Bullet when the year began, finally beating him in a loser leave town match in February. He had a short feud with Danny Davis as well during this time, however he quickly became involved in angles with Tom Pritchard who he feuded with from basically March through October. The start of it centered around Mystic coming to the announcer's podium with a black eye, claiming DWB did this to her. One of the announcers went back to get Tom Pritchard and when he came out, he was attacked from behind by Anthony and hung over the top ropes with a noose. There matches garnered a great deal of support in our feud of the year category with both men working extra hard. In October, he was entered in the Road to Birmingham tournament to establish a new CWF champion. Beating the Bullet in the first round and Dutch Mantell in the second, he eventually lost in the championship round to Tom Pritchard. This was more or less the end of that feud with DWB taking on the Armstrongs. With partner Jerry Stubbs, he entered the CWF tag team tournament in November where the feud with the Armstrongs continued. They traded the belts back an forth a couple of times, but Anthony and Subbs held it at year end.

BOB ARMSTRONG/THE BULLET (Robert James) - Under the mask as the Bullet for most of the year (although everyone knew who he was in reality), Bob started the year involved in a feud with Tony Anthony to whom he lost a loser leave town match in March. He headed to the Northern half of the Continental area, now being run under the USA banner. He split his time between the new uSA promotion and Southern Championship Wrestling in Georgia where he feuded with the Mongolian Stomper (Archie Goldie). In USA, he feuded with the Dog (Moondog Spot-Larry Latham). The summer saw he in a short lived series against Bill Dundee before he returned to Continental n August. He continued to work the SCW shows and even won the SCW championship in September. Bob became the head booker in the CWF after Eddie Gilbert's departure. Entering himself in the tourney for the CWF title, he lost in the first round to DWB. This brough about a feud between himself and DWB, Dutch Mantell and Jerry Stubbs. With his son Brad, the bullet captured the CWF tag team championship. They traded the ttle back and forth between themselves and DWB and crew.

BRAD ARMSTRONG (Robert James Jr.) - Brad worked in the NWA for the better part of the year, teaming with Tim Horner as the Lightening Express. They assumed a feud with the Sheepherders in the early months of the year before a knee injury put Brad on the sidelines in March. He teamed wth Horner at the Crockett cup before being relegated to opening matches. During the sring and summer, Brad wrestled as a single and worked the opening match of Clash of champions II against Barry Windham. In August they set up a feud with Al Perez but it barely got off the drawing board. He worked the opening match of Clash III against Rotundo in September before leaving the NWA for Continental in October. He was introduced there as the Bullet's mystery partner and was directed inserted into a feud with Dirty White Boy, Dutch Mantell and Jerry Stubbs. With his father, they won the CWF tag titles in December before dropping them shortly before the end of the year.

STEVE ARMSTRONG (Steve James) - Steve teamed with Tracy Smothers as the Southern Boys off an on during the year. They held the CWF tag titles at one point during the spring. Steve also worked for Southern Championship Wrestling during the late spring, leaving there to record an album. He returned in June for a few weeks before touring japan from 7/15 - 8/7. His return to the US was to the CWF where he reformed the Southern Boys with Smothers. In September he left the promotion over a money dispute and joined with SCW in Georgia. During the fall months he worked there as well as some independent dates in Alabama with brother Scott. In November he reformed the Southern Boys, this time in the New Japan tag team tournament.

ASSASSIN (David Sierra) - Under the mask, Sierra wrestled under several names during the 1988 campaign. He began in the Pacific Northwest as the Assassin and was involved in an angle where he was injured by Avalanche paul Neu. He feuded with Neu over the months of January and February culminating in a mask vs headgear match which he won. He won the TV, title on 2/16. In March, he feuded with Grappler in a battle of the masked men. He subbed for Curt hennig in a bizzare title defense against the Grappler and won the belt for Hennig (AWA title). He continued his feud with Neu over the course of the spring and finally began a new series against Buddy Rose that lasted through the middle of summer. In July he lost a Loser Leave town match to Rose and toured Japan from 7/15-8/7 as a result, working there as the Cuban Assassin. He returned from Japan to Florida Championship wrestling, feuding there for a few weeks with Lou Perez. He returned in August to the Pacific Northwest under a new mask, calling himself Top Gun. He resumed his feud with Rose with Rose claiming it was Assassin under the mask. Rose even donned a mask himself and posed as

Top Gun as well. Top Gun wrestled Flair in September when the NWA did a show in conjunction with the Owen's promotion. Gun won the Northwest championship from grappler but held it only a week before losing it back. the on going feud with Rose continued and Gun won a hair vs hair match in November. On christmas, hw regained the Northwest title once again.

TONY ATLAS (Anthony White) - After leaving the World Class promotion in early January, Tony made his living working for a host of independent promoters throughout the United States. His main claim to fame this yedr was being in the dressing room the night Bruiser Brody was stabbed and killed and he claimed to have seen the whole thing. He was to have been a witness in trial of the accused Jose Gonzales, but refused to return to Puerto Rico to testify.

AVALANCHE (Paul Neu) - Av worked in the Pacific Northwest through the first eleven months of the year, beginning the year with very little hair as a result of losing a hair match. He began wearing amateur headgear instead of showing his short cropped hair. He feuded with Assassin and lost a headgear vs mask match in February. He teamed with Mike Golden then through the spring months, feuding with the Southern Rockers, Scott Peterson and Steve Doll. In June he broke up with Golden and played the heel in their feud., getting a birthday cake in the face during a July TV show. He became part of the Beach Boys in July, teaming with Buddy Rose and together, they won the tag team championships for the area in September from the Southern rockers. They held the titles less than a month but the feud continued until Av took a tour of Germany in november. He retturned to the Pacific Northwest late in the year.

BABY DOLL (Nicola Roberts Smith) - baby Doll began the year in the NWA managing the affairs of Larry Zbyszko. That led to them blackmailing Dusty Rhodes in an angle that never got off the ground. She was history by late March or early April. We assume that she spent the rest of the year with her husband Sam Houston (Michael Smith).

BADD COMPANY: PAT TANAKA (Pat Tanaka) & PAUL DIAMOND (Tom Boric) - Pat began the year working as a single in World Class and splitting his time there and with World Organization Wrestling based out of Florida where he teamed with Diamond. They worked a few spot shows in Memphis as babyfaces during February as well as continuing to do shows for WOW. They entered the AWA under the guidance of Diamond Dallas Page in March, working there as heels. They won the AWA tag team belts on 3/19 and continued to hold them through the end of the year and into 1989. In April, the worked in the AWA as heels, but returned to memphis with those belts working as babyfaces. It April before they turned heel in Memphis making them universal heels (since he AWA and Memphis were working together they wanted them to be the same both places so that national TV tapes didn't confuse anyone). They began a feud with the Guerrero brothers which continued into the fall. With not working a full tme schedule in the AWA, they went to Florida Championship Wrestling in July and August and defended the belts there. Pat took some time in October to tour with New Japan but returned to the AWA in November. They lost the titles to Greg gagne and Robert Gibson after giving notice to the AWA, but since they changed their minds, Verne gagne and Stanley Blackburn overruled the title change and returned the belts to Badd Company. From that point on, the feud was with the Top Guns Ricky Rice and either Jon Paul or Derrick Dukes, who they met in a mixed tag at Superclash III with Medusa Miceli as their partner. Although Medusa was pinned, the title was not on the line (unless one of Badd Company had been pinned).

BARBARIAN (John Fuvoulo) - see POWERS OF PAIN

ART BARR (Arthur Barr) - In his first year as a pro, Art received a minor push in the Pacific Northwest. His main duty was working preliminary matches throughoutt the year although he was involved in an angle where he was attacked by the Grappler. This was done to set up the return of his brother Jesse (Jimmy Jack Funk). In September he was sidelined with knee surgery.

RON BASS (Ronald Herd) - Many questioned the push of Bass this year due to his lack of willingness to work or his lack of ability. The early part of the year saw him feud with Junk Yard Dog and more or less handle the role of a a preliminary jobber. He toured Europe with the WWF in April and returned to resume his feud with JYD post Wrestlemania. In August, he was pushed into a bigger feud, this time with Brutus Beefcake after Beefy sliced and diced Bass' whip Betsey. The feud culminated in December on a taping for Saturday Night's Main event when Beefcake lulled Bass to sleep and shaved his head. This angle, however, was not televised until 1989.

BRUTUS BEEFCAKE (Edward Leslie) - As 1988 opened, Beefy was winding down a feud with Greg valentine. At Wrestlemania, he wrestled Honky Tonk Man who he had just begun a feud with. He won the match by DQ and gave Jimmy hart a haircut in the process. he toured Europe with the WWF in April and returned to resume his feud with Beefcake. It was heavily rumored that he would be winning the Intercontinental belt from HTM at Summerslam, but an angle was concocted so that he was injured by Ron Bass and replaced by Ultimate Warrior. This resulted in Beefcake's feud with Bass and ended with Befy cutting Bass' hair on a SNME that was taped in December.

CHRIS BENOIT (Chris Benoit) - Chris began the year working in the Calgary Stampede promotion as a babyface and feuding with gama Singh over the Mid-heavyweight championship. The feud ended shortly after the first of the year and he began teaming with Johnny Smith and feuding in tag team action with the midnight Cowboys. This feud was also short lived as Smith turned heel on Benoit during one of the tag matches and they began a feud. He won the Mid heavyweight crown in March but continued in his feud with Smith. June saw a strange turn of events as chris lost the championship to Smith on 6/10. He won the belt back by mistake on 6/17 when the referee made a mistake in the ending of a match. He lost the belt back for good on 6/24 and the feud continued. He began teaming with Lance Idol in October and they won the international Tag team championship fromthe Cuban Commandoes. This partnership was also short lived as Idol turned on Benoit in November and this feud went on through the end of the year. Benoit had a tour of Japan during the summer months.

BAM BAM BIGELOW (Scott Bigelow) - Bigelow was in the WWF when the new year rolled around feuding wth one Man Gang. He also worked as Hulk Hogan's tag team partner around the circuit in the Hogan vs Andre & DiBiase feud. He blew out his knee in March and was out of action for a short time, but returned at Wrestlemana to lose via count out to ONe Man Gang there. May saw him doing jobs for Gang around the country before he left the WWF in June. He spent a short time in Memphis and worked one Windy City show before signing with the NWA in September. He toured Japan with New Japan during October before returning to the NWA to feud with Barry Windham. At Starrcade, he lost via COR to Windham. His future with the promotion was in question after Dusty's departure late in December.

BLACK BART (Eric Harris) - Bart began the year with the NWA in the role of a glorified jobber. he soon left, however and surfaced in World Class where he aligned himself with General Skandor Akbar and feuded with Bill Irwin. In May, he was conveniently suspended from WCCW so that he could work for Otto Wanz in Austria for two weeks. He returned to the Texas area and continued his feud with Irwin until leaving in late October. He entered the CWF where he stayed through the end of the year feuding with Willie B. Hert.

B. BRIAN BLAIR (Brian Blair) - see KILLER BEES.

TULLY BLANCHARD (Tully Blanchard) - As part of the four horsemen, Tully was involved in a feud with Lex Luger as 1989 got under way. With Arn Anderson, he held the NWA tag titles until Clash of CVhampions I when they were defeated by Luger and Windham. They received the number one seed in the Crocket Cup despite the title loss and just before the Cup, they won the titles back when Windham turned on Luger. During the Great American Bash tour, Tully teamed with other members of the four horsemen in matches against an assortment of NWA babyfaces. after the Bashes, he again teamed with Arn, holding the titles, and feuding with the midnight express in what started as a heel vs heel feud. Tully and Arn quickly became the heels, bu the feud was over in less than a month when they jumped to the WWF in September, coming in under the name of the Brainbusters. After the obligatory opening match rigamarole, hey began a feud with the Rockers which was just getting under way good as the year came to a close.

BOLSHEVIKS: BORIS ZHUKOV (James Darrell) & NICOLAI VOLKOF (Josef perusiak) - They worked as a prelim heel team throughout the year, winning matches against the Rougeaus in the beginning. They also feuded with Powers and Roma, trading wins with that team through the early spring before doing jobs for the debuting babyface team of Powers of Pain through the summer months. Their role changed little after that losing mainly to the Bulldogs and the Bushwhackers to round out 1988.

MATT BORNE (Mathew Osborne) - Matt started 1988 as the Texas champion in World Class. He lost that title to Terry Taylor on 2/26 and immediately left for the Pacific Northwest. There he assumed the role of Mike Miller (who had departed) as a babyface against the Grappler. He left the area for a few weeks in March-April before returning to Owen. He began using a wristbrace in June, but still working as a babyface and feuding with Moondog Moretti. He won the TV title while in Oregon, but vacated the title in July to return to Texas where he feuded with JJ Funk, working as the babyface. He teamed withSteve Casey at the Bruiser Brody Memorial card. In september he toured South Africa working for Stu Cohen. His return to the US was to the Pacific Northwest again where he resumed his wrist brace gimmick but now worked as a heel, calling himself King Matthew. In November, he bladed on TV after being forbidden to do so by the athletic commission and caused the promotion to be closed down for a couple of weeks. He resumed his role as King Matthew through the end of 1988.

BOSSMAN (Ray Trailor) - Working as Big Bubba in the NWA, he left the promotion in early January signing on with the WWF. Due to contractual stipulations, however, he was not allowed to work for Titan until May. He took the time off to make a tour of All Japan in the Big Bubba gimmick before debuting on Titan C team shows in May as Big Bossman. In June, they debuted the character on TV as a former prison guard from Cobb County, GA. He was put over as a killer heel immediately, handcuffing

opponents after the win and pounding them wth his nightstick. A little of his Bubba character remained as he wrestled in a prison guard's outfit rather than usual wrestling gear. In November he atacked Hulk Hogan during a Brother Love segment to set up a feud between the two and to set the background for the eventual split of the mega powers.

DINO BRAVO (Adolpho Brescino) - January saw Bravo get a push after "setting a world bench press record" at the Royal Rumble show, getting a billing as Canada's strongest athlete. He worked the rest of the winter months squashing Koko B Ware around the horn. He lost in the 1st round of the tournament at Wrestlemania to Don Muraco via DQ. he then feuded with ken patera after the Wrestlemania break over who was the strongest. That feud continued throughout the summer until September when a new feud was set up with Jim Duggan. In November, he was the co survivor along with Curt Hennig in the Survivor Series.

BRITISH BULLDOGS: DAVEY BOY SMITH (David Smith) & DYNAMITE KID (Tommy Billington) - In the WWF, the former champions were feuding with the Islanders as the new year began over the kidnapping of mascot Mathilda. A scare was thrown into them in February when Dynamite collapsed in an airport, but was given a clean bill of health at a hospital. At Wrestlemania, they teamed with Koko B Ware to take on the Islanders and Bobby Heenan, a match that ran its course over the next few months at house shows. the summer months saw them winning against the Bolsheviks and earning title shots against Demolition who they did jobs for. They wrestled the Rougeau brothers at Summer Slam, going to a draw there. bad blood developed with the Rougeaus after a practical joke got out of hand and a few dressing room brawls were a result. They toured Europe with Titan in October and returned to the US only to give notice. They left shortly after the Survivor series and went to work for father in law Stu Hart in Calgary. There, they won the international tag belts on 12/7/88 from the Cuban commandoes.

BRUISER BRODY (Frank Goodish) - As he year got under way, the future looked bright for Bruiser Brody. He was working a regular circuit with the independent promotions including Southern championship Wrestling for Jerry Blackwell, and the World Wrestling Council in Puerto Rico. In Georgia, he was involved in a feud with Dick Slater. It was this promotion that he seemed to be giving the most of his time and attention to. He tourned in All Japan in march where he won the International title on 3/27. He returned to the Blackwell promotion and worked a few dates for Windy City Wrestling and World Class as well. In July, Frank agreed to work a four day tour in Puerto Rico for Carlos Colon. He feuded with Dan Spivey there. On 7/15, the scheduled match with Spivey never took place. Brody was called into the bathroom by fellow wrestler Jose Gonzales where he was fatally stabbed. Brody died early the next morning on a hospital operating table. He was survived by his wife Barbara and son Geoffry.

BAD NEWS BROWN (Allen Coage) - Bad News was one of the only wrestlers the WWF allowed to work for someone else while under contract to them. The beginning of the year was busy as he worked for Calgary and appeared on TV for Titan. While in calagary, he used the name Bad News Allen changing it to Brown after joining Titan. He was fined and suspended legitimately in Calgary for brawling in the specators and he refused to pay his fine there. On the Titan TV debut, he beat up Sam Houston to establish himself as a heel. He then went to Italy to work for Dominic DeNucci with a tour there. Returning to the WWF, he wasted no time in starting a feud when he pearl harbored Bret Hart to win the opening battle royal. The next few months saw him feud with Bret and Jim Neidhart while claiming an undefeated streak in front of WWF cameras. He beat Ken patera at Summer Slam in August but began doing jobs for hulk Hogan around september. When not laying down for Hogan, he was winning against Koko B Ware. In November during a Brother Love segment he physically assaulted WWF Jack Tunney after making insinuations about the president and Elizabeth. This set up a feud with Brown and Savage which was just getting under way as the year wound down.

BRICKHOUSE BROWN (Ronald Brown) - The independent circuit was Brickhouse's source of income during the first couple of months of the year. he worked in Georgia Championship wrestling holding the US junior title for a spell in Febraury before coming to memphis and the CWA. There he received a minor push under the guidance of Brother Ernest Angel. He took over Angel's stabel in May when Angel took a powder from wrestling. He managed Max Pain, but they had a breakup after he asked Pain to give up his CWA title. Brown won the CWA by forfeit after his stable beat Pain up prior to a scheduled CWA title match with Brown. He lost the title back to Pain shortly thereafter then aligned himself with Robert Fuller and Studd's stable in July. August saw him weather a bunch of racial slurs from Fuller before finally turning babyface in September and feuding with the stable. At Superclash III, he lost after being knocked out by a foreign object to Iceman Parsons. He continued to feud with Fuller through the end of the year.

JIM BRUNZELL (James Brunzell) - see KILLER BEES.

LARRY CAMERON (larry Cameron) - One of the best heels at creating instant heat, Larry worked mainly the independent promotions throughout the year.

He worked for the corporate trade show in Chicago for Jeff Siegel and had the privilege of being managed by yours truly. In the Midwest, he worked opening bouts for the NWA during the spring, usually against Johnny Love. He found semi regular work with the Windy City promotion as a killer heel. They used him on every show up until August when he turned babyface against Colonel deBeers. He disappeared from Windy City shortly after that to work some spot shows for the AWA and other independents in the upper midwest. He began inCalgary in December as a heel to rave reviews.

STEVE CASEY (Steve Casey) - steve began as a rookie, working for the World Class promotion. He got a push in late spring by winning the Triple tower of Doom on the Parade of Champions card. After that, he feuded with Eric Embry over the light heavyweight championship, eventually losing a best two of three match series to Embry. he teamed with Matt Borne at the Brody Memorial card and went into opening matches after that.

DENNIS CONDREY (Dennis Condrey) - see O-RIGINAL MIDNIGHT EXPRESS.

WENDALL COOLEY (Wendall Cooley) - In a carryover feud from 1987, Cooley began 1988 trying to win his contract back from Dutch Mantell in the CWF. While he succeeded in the ring, he failed at the same time, breaking his kneecap and spending a few weeks on the mend in February. He returned for a short time after recovery to resume the feud with Mantell, but decided to go north with the group that split with the CWF. His swan song was doing jobs in a series of loser leave town six man tag matches. When he joined the USA promotion out of Knoxville, he feuded with Hector Guerrero in the role of a babyface. That feud was switched to one with Buddy Landell over the Tennessee title in June where he and Landell traded the title back and forth before finally capturing it for good in July. he entered the CWA in November as Rick casey but they changed his name to Coley again after everyone kept calling himthat anyway. There he feuded with Robert Fuller and the studd's stable after they tried to break his arm. He teamed on occasion with jerry Lawler in his matches with Fuller and company.

JIM CORNETTE (James Cornette) - Jim handled the affairs of the Midnight Express all year long but also handled Dick Murdoch inthe early going of 1888. he feuded with Misty Blue for a period in February but, thankfully, it was short lived. He got his face shoved in an anniversary cake in May by the Fantastics amidst their feud with the Express. In August, he turned babyface along with his Express to feud with JJ Dillon. He was attacked by paul E Dangerously in November to set up a feud between his Midnight express and Jim's. Cornette won the Wrestling Forum balloting for manager of the year for the third year in a row.

COWBOY TONY (Anthony Falk) - We have very little on this young man's career this year as he seemingly disappeared from wrestling for long stretches at a time. We know he worked in Puerto Rico during March as he held the Junior title there for a couple of weeks during April. He worked there off and on during the year as Tony Falk and returned to the US in December to the World Class area. There he worked as a babyface feuding with Jimmy Jack Funk.

STEVE COX (Steve Cox) - the former Dr. death protege saw little action until April of this year when he went to work for Bob Giegel in Central States. He worked there and for Chris Adams' independent in Texas until July when he hooked up withWorld class full time. There he teamed with Michael Hayes in his feud with the Freebird renegades and the Samoan Swat Team. He and Hayes traded the WCCW tag belts back and forth several times with SST before losing them for good just before the end of the year. in their series of losses to SST, Cox rarely did the job. Cox managed to make great strides during 1988 as a worker.

PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY (Paul Heyman) - Paul made his presence felt throughout the wrestling world this year, working for several different promotions during the course. He started in the AWA managin gthe Original Midnight Express, but was fired/quit shortly after the start of the year. He wound up in Georgia working for Blackwell's Southern Championship Wrestling, handling the affairs of Randy Rose. He endeared himself to inside fans with a series of "I Hate the AWA" Danzer Zones on Pro Wrestling this Week. In april he was involved in an angle where he bought 51% of PWTW stock and fired Gordon SOlie and Joe Pedicino. he quit the SCW shortly after that to work Windy City as their manager and booker. He managed Colonel DeBeers and the Terminators there. He also went to work at the same time for the CWf where he managed Eddie Gilbert and tried to recuit Austin Idol. He brought the Original Midnight Express back to Windy City as they feuded with the team he turned against, the Terminators. He walked out of the CWF in September and appeared at the UAWF convention in memphis. He took the Original Midnight Express to the NWA in Novemebr to feud with Jim Cornette and his Midnight Express.

DANNY "WWF" DAVIS (Daniel Davis) - Davis was ending up a feud with Sam Houston in the early months. he continued in his heel jobber role laying down for a variety of wrestlers throughout the rest of the year, most of the time for Koko B. Ware.

DANNY "CWF" DAVIS (Daniel Davis) - Danny held the Continental title at the start of the year but lost it shortly thereafter to Humongous. He then feuded with Tony ANthony for the first few months of the year before reforming his tag team withKen Wayne, the Nightmares, in June. They won a tag team tournament to crown new champions amidst some bickering between the two. Wayne turned heel on Davis

and they lost thte tag belts to the Drill Instructor and detroit Demolition. This was the beginning of one of the best feuds of the year with Davis playing babyface to Wayne's heel. The feud continued through the next four to five months under the careful booking eye of Eddie gilbert who never failed to make the angles interesting. They traded the junior title back and forth several times over the next few months. The feud came to a culmination when Davis lost his hair to Wayne at the Road to Birmingham tournament. He then took on Willie B hert as a tag team partner in a tournament during November to crown new CWF tag team champs. He was given the junior title when Wayne left the promotion in December.

COLONEL DEBEERS (Edward Wiskowski) - The Colonel worked mainly for the Independent promotions in the early going including several on the east coast and Windy City. In march, he returned to the Pacific Northwest where he had wrestled previously under other names including Mega Maharishi, however, none of those names were acknowledged by the promotion. He teamed with Buddy Rose for a while before going single and winning the TV title there on 8/16. He returned to the AWA in September managed by Diamond Dallas Page where he worked the super tapings from Memphis to set up a feud with Sgt. Slaughter. He left the Pacific Northwest in September and was stripped of the TV title. He continued to work for the independents and Windy City as well as the AWA. He wrestled Slaughter at Clash IIi and lost via DQ.

ABUDDAH DEIN (Rocky Iauka) - Dein began as the Pacific Northwest TV champion and ran the House of Abuddah Dein which included members Avalanche, Joey Jackson, and Moondog Moretti. He lost the TV title in February when it was held up after a wild match with Coco Sdamoa. this allowed him to take time off to be married and tour with All Japan. He did not work full time again until another tour of Japan from 8/20-9/9. He returned to Owen in November to feud with the Southern Rockers and Scott Peterson in particular.

DEMOLITION: AXE (William Eadie) & SMASH (Barry Darsow) - The year began with a feud with Billy Jack Haynes and Ken Patera after they had injured BJ's cousin Brady Boone. The feud didn't go over and it was cut short by Haynes' health problems. They then began a series of matches with Strike Force culminating in a Wrestlemania match up where Demolition won the tag belts. They toured Europe with the WWF during April and returned to defend in rematches against Strike Force. When the Powers of Pain jumped to the WWF in late June and July, a natural feud developed there with matches taking place across the country. In October they tourned Europe again. A falling out with manager Mr. Fuji caused their turn to babyface at the Survivor Series, but the Powers also turned so that the feud reamined intact.

TED DIBIASE (Ted Dibiase) - 1988 was a busy year for Ted with him not only becoming more well known in just one year than he had in the past ten, but also getting involved in a variety of angles and feuds. He began by buying the contract of Andre the Giant from Bobby Heenan, announcing that andre would win the WWF title and then turn it over to him. As for ring work, he worked against Rcik Steamboat in a few matches early in the year, but mainly with Jim Duggan. After the purchase of the contract angle got in to full swing, he spent the weeks leading up to Wrestlemania in tag matches with andre as his partner against Hogan and a variety of partners. Ted held the WWF belt for one week in February after Andre gave it to him and before WWF president jack Tunney ruled the exchange invalid. In the Wrestlemania tournament, he made it to the final round, losing there to Savage after defeating Duggan in the first round, Muraco in the second, and receiving a bye in the third. After WM-IV, he feuded with Savage around the country over the belt in a series of good matches. In June he helped Andre attack Savage which ultimately set up the formation of the mega powers at Summer Slam. He feuded with Hulk Hogan in the fall of the year. In October, he won he 4th annual King of the Ring tournament by beating savage via count out. He also bought the contract of Hercules shortly after that and began a feud with him when Hercules objected to being bought. This series lasted until the end of the year with Ted's bodyguard Virgil getting involved in a good deal of the matches as well. Ted was ranked second in our wrestler of the year poll this year.

J. J. DILLON (James J. Dillon) - JJ held an important role in the front offices of the nWA throughout the year being the head butt kisser to Dusty Rhodes. Seriously, he managed he Four Horsemen until the group disintegrated late in the year. In August he began an entertaining feud with Jim Cornette but that was short lived due to the departure of his team of Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson. November saw him involved in a power struggle with the new regime, trying hard to make sure everyone knew his worth.

STEVE DOLL (Steve Dahl) - see SOUTHERN ROCKERS

SHANE DOUGLAS (Shane Douglas) - Our 1987 rookie of the year had a spotty year as far as wrestling was concerned. After working a few independent dates in January, he toured Europe with the DeNucci group before returning to the NWA. He was pushed here as a Magnum TA protege winning his matches with the belly to belly suplex. His push never quite turned out the way everyone had hoped for and he left the NWA in April. He wound up in the CWF, replacing Steve Armstrong in the Armstrong-Smothers tag team.

He took a few weeks off during May-June to return to college and complete his teaching certificate, but returned to the CWF where he continued to work through the fall. In mid July, he teamed with Lord Humongous and won the CWF tag team titles and feuding with the Drill Instructor and Detroit demolition. Since he didn't manage a full time schedule there, he was also allowed to work for independents such as Carolina Championship Wrestling at the same time. In September, he announced that he and Humongous were cousins to help both get over more as a babyface team. he left the promotion on 9/23, losing the tag titles on the way out. He reportedly returned to teach school after the school year began in his native pennsylvania.

DOWNTOWN BRUNO (Bruno Lauer) - Bruno began the year as the manager of Lord Humongous in the CWF. He continued there despite a lack of a a push through April when he appeared on Memphis TV as part of the co-operation that the two groups had. In May, he was involved in an angle with a local sportscaster where Humongous bodyslammed him through a backdrop in the studio. Bruno was fired shortly thereafter and went back to work in memphis where he aligned himself as part of the Studd's Stable. Jarrett put him through living hell as he feuded with midgets, women, and finally Jammie Dundee. In October he was "adopted" by Phil Hickerson and requested that he be called Downtown Bruno Hickerson. he was a featured guest at the uAWF convention in Memphis where he entertained conventioneers with his lively stories and shoot comments on other managers in the business.

THE DRILL INSTRUCTOR (Robert O'Brien) - The DI debuted in the CWF in march with a gimmick similar to the old Sgt. Slaughter heel schtick. He feuded with Willie B Hert through the late spring. He teamed with Detroit Demolition (Randy Culley) and held the tag team titles for the area for about a month before dropping them to Humongous and Shane Douglas. He brought in a Private Pyle to be his protege and hey did the Slaughter-Nelson angle (similar to Sgt carter-Gomer Pile on TV). He continued to work in a minor role in the fall and winter in the promotion, but did work for the NWA under a hood as a TV jobber during a September taping.

JIM DUGGAN (James Duggan) - Hacksaw began the year in a feud with Harley Race that was coming to an end. He won the Royal Rumble in january and worked against Ted DiBiase for the next couple of months. Jim was one of Hogan's partners in the DiBiase/Andre tag team matches. At Wrestlemania, he lost in the first round via pinfall to Ted DiBiase. After WM-IV, he feuded with Andre the Giant after knocking the giant our with his 2 x 4 on TV. He toured Europe with Titan during April and prior to that feud. He was the long awaited guest on the Brother Love segment at Summer-Slam. From September through the end of the year, he feuded with Dino Bravo in a series of flag vs flag matches.

DERRICK DUKES (Derrick Dukes) - In what promised to be a big year for Derrick had to be a disappointment. He worked Jeff Siegel's corporate show in Chicago with regular tag partner Ricky Rice and then returned home to Minnesota to work mainly for Eddie Sharkey's independent there. He toured Europe with an independent group in April and was promised several shots with the AWA upon his return. Those shots never materialized until July when he worked as a jobber. He continued to work the Minnesota independents until December when he was a last minute replacement for Jon Paul at Superclash III where he and Rice reformed the Top Guns tagteam to take on Badd Company in a mixed match that featured Wendi Richter and Medussa Micelli.

BILL DUNDEE (William Dundee) - Bill turned from face to heel so many times this year he was referred to as the human ping pong ball. He began as a bayface in Memphis involved in a babyface feud with Jerry Lawler. Dundee had lost a King of the Ring tournament to Lawler which ignited the feud. Through the month of January, he worked the feud with matches almost every monday night against Lawler with fans expecting him to turn heel each week. He finally did in February when he attacked Lawler and Jeff Jarrett. Toward the end of the month, he was turned back babyface (in a way) when he was attacked by eddie Gilbert while he was wrestling Jeff Jarrett. He left the area to join the new USA group out of Knoxville. He returned to Memphis for an occasional show during March, working as a babyface. He turned heel in the USA group about the same time.. In July, he feuded with Bullet Bob Armstrong in USA. he lost in the finals of the tournament to crown a new USA champion to Doug Furnas. He returned to Mephis in August after USA folded to feud (as a babyface) with Fuller and his Studd's stable. He brought in his son Jammie to feud with Downtown Bruno and won Bruno in a valet for a day match. This feud continued in one form or another until December when a new feud developed with the new tag team of the Beauty and the Beast when they stole one of Dundee's jumpsuits.

BOBBY EATON (Robert Eaton) - see MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

PAUL ELLERING (Paul Ellering) - managed the Road warriors throughout the year, taking the place of either in tag team action when needed due to injuries. See ROAD WARRIORS for further information.

ERIC EMBRY (Donald Fulton) - Eric began the year with a new bleach job as a heel in World Class. There he feuded with the Simpsons and Jason Sterling over the light heavyweight championship. He defended the belt in other promotions as well including Deep South. the Spring saw a feud develop with rookie Steve Casey over

the light heavyweight belt. He also took over the booker's chores in World class in the early part of Summer. His feud with Casey and Sterling continued until he won a best of three series of matches with casey. Sterling had departed WCCW by that time. Embry appeared in Florida with the belt in July. He took a short vacation from WCCW (with the belt) shortly after that but did appear on the Brody Memorial card. In October, he turned babyface to feud with Skandar Akbar and his men and with Jeff Jarrett. Embry wrestled as a face in Texas in his feud with Jeff, but as a heel in Memphis. He had a bounty of $50,000 placed on his head by Akbar and that feud continued through the end of the year. At Superclash III, he defeated Jeff Jarrett for the light heavyweight championship after trading it back and forth several times in the previous months.

FANTASTICS: Tommy Rogers (Thomas Rogers) & Bobby Fulton (James Hines) - The year began with them in the World Class area feuding with the team of John tatum and Jack Victory. They entered the NWA in february replacing the Rock and Roll Express and feuding with the Midnight express. That feud lasted quite a while and produced some of he best matches in the NWA. The feud won our balloting for best feud of 1988 and three of their mattches were contenders in the match of the year category as well. They won the uS tag titles from the Express in April and held them until July when they dropped them back. They defeated the Sheepherders on Clash II in June. After dropping the belts tto the Express, they resumed a feud with the Sheepherders that had started in the old UWF. That feud was cut short when the Sheepherders jumped to the WWF. they won the uS itles again in December, defeating Eddie Gilbert and Ron Simmons at Clash IV in the finals of a tournament. They lost the belts to the Varsity Club at Starrcade.

MANNY FERNANDEZ (Manuel Fernandez) - manny made the rounds this year, working for several different promotions. He started off in Memphis, turning babyface to help Jeff Jarrett in an effort to ease some of the heat he was receiving from fans. He left the promotin in early February but returned by the end of the month to attack Ricky Morton, thus turning heel again. He worked for Blackwell's Southern Championship Wrestling in March as a heel before leaving for Puerto Rico in April. He worked there from 4/1 - 4/10 and then toured New Japan from 4/19 - 5/7. His return kept him busy as well as he worked the independent circuit as well as Southern and Puerto Rico. In Southern, he developed a feud with Chris Adams after he would stuff a burrito into the mouths of opponents after a win. Adams made the save for those opponents. He also began the long running feud with Wahoo McDaniel in June as he worked an AWA TV taping. During a live WATL broadcast of the wrestlng block, he beat up Eddie Gilbert on live TV in Atlanta. He returned to New Japan from mid July through early August and returned to work independent and AWA dates against Wahoo. He took another tour of New japan in November competing in the annual tag team tournament with Buzz sawyer as his partner. He returned to resume his feud with McDaniel and lost his strap match to the Indiam at Superclash III.

RIC FLAIR (Richard Fleihr) - Flair survived all sorts of rumors of his departure fromthe NWA and all challengers to his NWA title during 1988. He began the year by defending hs title against Road warrior Hawk on the Bunkhouse Stampede Finals PPV event. he worked arena shows with Michael Hayes through the month of January. A feud developed with Sting in february which lasted off and on through the mid summer months. He wrestled Nikita Koloff at the Crockett Cup in April, taking some time off due to the flu during the last week of the month. His biggest challenge of the year came from his next feud which pitted him against Lex Luger who he defeated on the Bsh PPV when the match was stopped for Luger's bleeding. the rest of the Bash tour, he was basically wasted in tag matches with his four horsemen cohorts. August saw him wrestle Luger in a series of rematches that were billed in each town as the only rematch between the two. The matches continued with Flair losing, usually by DQ but retaining his belt. The matches were again rerun in September with special referees John Ayers and Johnny weaver being assigned to the matches. He wrestled Luger again at Starrcade and won with his feet on the ropes. Flair was named the best wrestler by our year end poll (wrestler of the year) for a third year in a row. His match with Sting, a forty five minute draw at the Clash of Champions I was named match of the year by our readers. He was rumored to be Titan bound after the Turner buyout, but Turner's people came to an understanding with Flair and he won a power struggle with booker Dusty Rhodes over his match at Starrcade. The Turner folks plan to build the future of the promotion around Flair.

CACTUS JACK FOLEY (jack Foley) - Cactus Jack laboured away inthe independents for the past five years before being picked up by a major promotin her ein the States. He toured Italy with Dominic DeNucci in January but returned to work the independent circuit after that. He debut in Memphis in September becoming a member of Studd's stable and teaming with Gary Young. they won the CWA tag belts in November and moved to WCCW in December where he changed his last name to Manson. Foley quickly became known for his wild, crazy bumps in and out of the ring and he showed his adeptness with the blade on many occasions. A bump he took during the Memphis Mid South Coliseum show during the UAWF convention will long be remembered

by those in attendance as one of the most realistic looking they had ever seen.

ROBERT FULLER (Robert Welch) - Working with a corp of wrestlers called the Sudd's stable, Fuller ran roughshod over the CWF in the early part of 1988. he teamed with Jimmy Golden for the most part, feuding with the Southern boys. Early spring saw his feud go single as he worked with Dutch Mantell around the CWF territory. He appeared in Memphis as part of the talent exchange and ended up working there full time after they made an offer to him to take the job of booker. He no showed a series of Loser leave town matches in the CWF vs Mantell in March after the offer. He reformed his stable in Memphis and feuded there with Jeff Jarrett in a long series of matches which saw him being by breaking Jeff's arm. The feud continued and involved the whole Jarrett family at one point. He 'required" a special boot for his matches following an attack by Jarrett and even went so far as to come out for interview in a wheelchair. His push of himself got to be almost too much during the summer as he was doing four to five interviews per show in Memphis. His stable also feuded with former stablemate Brickhouse Brown after they made racial slurs at Brown. he teamed with Golden again to win the CWA tag belts in October, feuding with former stablemates Gary Young and cactus Jack. He teamed with Golden to wrestle the Rock and Roll Express at Superclash iII in Chicago.

JIMMY JACK FUNK (Jesse Barr) - january began with Funk involved in a series of matches against Jeff Jarrett in the CWA area. that feud was just coming to an end then, but he stayed on to work as a preliminary heel at house shows. He returned to the Pacific Northwest under his real name as a babyface, but when he saved his brother Art from an attack by the Grappler, they donned him in his JJ Funk get up which he used from then on. He worked for All Japan from 5/14 - 6/10 as Jimmy Jack and got over in the gimmick surprisingly well considering the legendary Funk name in Japan. He returned to the Pacific Northwest to feud with Al Madril in June before departing and surfacing in World Class as a heel. There he worked with Matt Borne. he stayed there for the remainder of the year, teaming with John Tatum for the most part with the departure of Jack Victory.

DOUG FURNAS (doug Furnas) - The year started for Furnas in the CWF where he was challenged to a bench press contest by Lord Humongous. The result was a predictable heel attacks babyface with humongous pressing the weights down on Furnas' chest. Furnas had to take some time off from the feud in February due to a concussion he suffered in an out of the ring dive when Humongous failed to catch him right. In March, furnas left the CWF for the new USA promotion in Knoxville where he was given the Tennessee title. He traded the title back and forth with Buddy Landell over the next few months. They began to set up a feud with Terry Gordy in june, however Furnas left the area for the CWA in Memphis. he lasted one whole match there before returning to the USA area. The angle with Gordy was forgotten. On the 4th of July, Furnas won a tournament for the new USA title by defeating Bill Dundee in the finals. He lost the title late in the month to the Mongolian Stomper and then returned to the CWF when USA folded. He was injured there in September by Tony Anthony so that he could tour with All Japn in the month of October. he returned to the CWF till the end of the year.

GREG GAGNE (Greg Gagne) - Being the son of the owner has its advantages. With Greg's attitude in 1988, it's probably the only thing that kept him his job let alone gave him any titles. He won the TV title in january by defeating the late Adrian Adonis. The title had been set to go to the first wrestler to reach a set number of points, however it was turned into a two man tournament at the last minute. Greg continued to feud with Curt Hennig over the AWA title in a feud that had started in 1987. Greg won a cage match on the farewell to the Minneapolis Auditorium card in February, however the front office ruled that it was a non title match up. Greg handled a lot of the front office responsibilities during the year and limited his wrestling exclusively to AWA shows. He lost the TV title to Ron Garvin after falling for Garvin's "hurt ankle trick" during the super tapings in Memphis-Nashville in September. In November he teamed with Robert Gibson to win the AWA tag team titles after he accepted Badd Company's notice. The front office reasoned with Tanaka and Diamond and the titles were returned to them and Greg received a tongue lashing for making the title switch decision on his own. He regained the TV title at Superclash when he beat Garvin via Count out. Although he worked as a babyface, he was booed heartily during the match and when he won the title. In typical Greg Gagne style, he bad mouthed the folks of Chicago following the match, taking a shot at the Bears in the process.

JIM GARVIN (james Williams) - Jim began the year in a minor role in the NWA teaming with Sting on the Nassau PPV show to defeat the Sheepherders. With "brother" Ron, he feuded with the Midnight Express during february in a minor feud before getting a major push in a feud with the Varsity Club and Kevin Sullivan. His wife patty accompanied him to the ring in the role of Precious and she too took an important part in the feud. Sullivan hnted that they had at one time been married and thus intensified the series. jim and Precious were the main focal points in the July PPV show which featured the Triple Tower of Doom. The feud with Sullivan was not over and it came to a conclusion when Sullivan attacked Jim before a scheduled match

on TBS with Mike Rotundo. Sullivan cracked a couple of cement blocks on Garvin's leg which allowed Jim to have some much needed knee surgery. he was out of action for much of the fall before returning to the ring, but now with World Class. He also worked for Nelson Royal's promotion in the Carolinas during November and went to Memphis for a title shot against Jerry Lawler. He left WCCW in December and he told fellow wrestlers he was headed to Titan, however as of this writing, he had pretty much disappeared from the wrestling scene altogether.

RON GARVIN (Ronald Barnes) - In one of the quickest falls from grace, Ron went from being former NWA champion to opening bout wrestler in less than two months. With "brother" Jim (actually his step son), he feuded for a short period with the Midnight Express. When Jim became involved in the angle with the Varsity Club, Ron was working opening to mid card matches with Ivan Koloff. he was scheduled to team with Sting at the Crockett Cup, but was injured making the save for Jim in his match with Sullivan. he then helped Jim in his feud with Sullivan and the Varsity Club and was involved inthe Tower of Doom match at the Baltimore PPV Bash show. He was the first one out of the cage. It was also on that show that he turned heel, running into the ring after a ref bump during Dusty's match and KO'ing the Dream. He was set to feud with Dusty over this, having been paid off by Paul Jones and JJ Dillon, however he left the NWA shortly thereafter. He went to work for both the AWA and Carlos Colon in Puerto Rico. He won the AWA TV title in September from Greg Gagne and entered the tournament for the Universal title in Puerto Rico. he also worked a couple of World Class cards about the same time. In November he decided to sign with Titan, replacing the departing Don Muraco, and he pulled himself from any and all future AWA cards. He continued to work Puerto Rico and in fact won the Universal title in a tournament final over Colon. He began working the WWF as Rugged Ron Garvin and was allowed to return to finish commitments to the AWA and World Council. He lost the AWA TV title to Greg on 12/13 by count out and lost the Universal title to Colon on 12/18 before going to work full time for the WWF.

MIKE GEORGE (Michael George) - Mike had only a few, but very interesting accomplishments during 1988 which accounts for his being named with other wrestlers here. He won the WWA "world Title" in January defeating Dick Slater in a tournament. He worked for Central States for the rest of the year, with an occasional appearance in the WCCW area. He played the heel role all year. In April he was responsible for potatoing Chris Adams with a dropkick that left Adams bloodied and bruised.. He lost his WWA title for a while to Masa Chono, but regained it after a brief abdication. He worked as a jobber on Titan cards in the midwest on nights off from the WWA. His main feud was with D J peterson, who he worked with during the day, as car salesmen at a Kansas City car dealership.

ROBERT GIBSON (Ruben Kane) - see ROCK AND ROLL EXPRESS.

DOUG GILBERT (Doug Gilbert) - Doug ook some time off a the beginning of the year before popping up in Memphis as the "Hitman" in February. There he worked as a prelim heel and teamed with Gary Young for a feud with Jeff Jarrett and Billy Travis in April. March had him teaming with father Tommy against Eddie Marlin and a host of partners in a family feud situation. He left the CWA shortly after that and didn't surface until July when he was brought into the CWF by Ken wayne as Nightmare #3. His character was renamed Nightmare Freddie after the Friday the 13th character and he feuded as a heel with babyface Mr. Olympia (Jerry Stubbs). In september he worked a few dated for Central States and was caught in the controversy surrounding his brother Eddie's firing/walk out. He left the CWF as well and worked a few spots in Puerto Rico before disappearing at the end of the year.

EDDIE GILBERT (Thomas Edward Gilbert Jr.) - Eddie was battling for his job outside the ring in January as he was working for the NWA as a heel. His job was on thin ice as he was one of the only left overs of the old UWF and Dusty was pushing him in to the shadows of the promotion. He left the promotion by February and headed home to Memphis where he became involved immediately with a feud with Jerry Lawler. Eddie became proficient at throwing fireballs and seemed to have launched one at everyone in the promotion including Lawler, Dundee, Randy Hales and Jerry Jarrett. The brawls with Lawler were Memphis classics including an instance where the action spilled out intot he parking lot and ended up with Lawler being bodyslammed through a car windshield. In April, Eddie and Missy Hyatt adopted Gary Young and reformed the first family. Eddie assigned Gary to "watch Missy's behind" while he worked part time for the CWF and Continental. It was shortly after that that Eddie went to work for Continental full time as there were some hard feelings when a couple of angles aired on both the CWF and CWA TV shows the same weekend making the promoters think he had stolen the ideas from one another. In the CWF, he established a feud with Austin Idol and took Paul E Dangerously as his manager.. In June, he worked for Southern Championship wrestling including a live broadcast from the studios of WATL in which he was attacked by Dick Slater and Manny Fernandez which left Gilbert as a babyface here. He continued to work full time in the CWF where in the fall, he started a feud with Willie B. Hert by attacking Willie's son during an interview. He reinjured his neck (injured the first time in a car accident several years ago)

in a brawl with Hert and took some time off. During that time he worked a card for Central States and when Continental found out about it, problem arose which resulted in Gilbert being fired. He took some time off in October to be a guest at the UAWF convention in memphis before joining the NWA as a babyface. he entereed there as a friend of the injured/departed Jim Garvin and took over in his feud with the Varsity Club. he helped Rick Steiner turn babyface and then started a feud with barry Windham over the US title.

TERRY GORDY (Terry Gordy) - Gordy started the year on a bum knee feuding with the Von Erichs in Texas. This led to some matches with Chris Adams as well before he took off for a tour of Japan. He returned to World Class to find his Freebird brothers Michael Hayes and Buddy Roberts involved in a feud. He took a neutral position although he was in Iceman Parsons' corner on 3/25 when Iceman won the WCCW version of the world title from Kerry. Hayes was in Kerry's corner. April was a busy month as he was entered in the USA tournament in Knoxville, worked as a tweener in WCCW beating up Chris Adams for Terry Taylor yet helping the Simpsons in their feud with Tatum and Victory, and also taking another tour of Japan. In May, he faced former partner Michael Hayes in a cage match and beat him, but refused to cut Michael's hair afterward which helped his babyface image. He was also working part time for USA trying to establish a feud with Doug Furnas, but his limited time there prevented that from really ever getting off the ground. He toured Japan again in July. When he returned to the states, he worked mainly independent cards including a Windy city show along with independents in ALabama. He did return tot he WCCW in August to have a short lived feud with Kamala. In October he took part in the Road to Birmingham tournament and lost via DQ to Austin Idol in the first round. He teamed with Stan Hansen in November to take part in the All Japan annual tag team tournament which they went on to win.

SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM (Wayne Coleman) - Graham, being in failing health, did little if any ring work this year except to be in Don Muraco's corner while Muraco feuded with Butch Reed early in the year. He officially retired to the broadcast booth in June when he was attacked by Greg Valentine on the syndicated show seting up a feud between Valentine and Muraco. Graham was voted by our readers as being the worst announcer of 1988 due probably to his constant use of the word "brother" during the summer Slam PPV broadcast.

GRAPPLER (len Denton) - Grappler began the year wearing the championship belt from the Pacific Northwest and feuding wth Brian Adams. He used a loaded boot as a gimmick and in February, it was the cause of the AWA title being held up in a match with Curt Hennig. Heenig could not make the return match so Assassin subbed for him and Grappler lost to him, losing any claim to the AWA title at the same time. He went on to feud with Matt Borne in march. In april, he attacked Art Barr which got him a feud with Jimmy Jack Funk (Barr's brother) until Funk left the area. he resumed his feud with a returning matt Borne. In July, he took on Terminator as a tag team partner and together the y won the PNW tag titles and held them just over a month before dropping them to the Southern Rockers. He traded the NW title back and forth with Top Gun in the fall before losing it to tatsumi Fujinami in October. He beat Top Gun in a match to determine the number one contender for the belt and earned a trip to Japan to regain it. He did in fact regain the title in Japan in december before losing it to Top Gun on Christmas night in Portland.

CHAVO GUERRERO (Chavo Guererro) - Chavo did not wrestle full time during the year, but did some appearances for different groups in North America at various times. He worked in Mexico during April and in Billy Jack haynes' OWF in March. He hooked on with the AWA in June and with his brothers, feuded with Badd Company there. He was also the featured performer at some California independent cards while working the AWA part time in the late summer months. He made an appearance or two for Central States in August and September. With his brothers, they defeated the RPM's and Cactus Jack at Superclash III in Chicago.

HECTOR GUERERRO (hector Guererro) - hector was the most active of the Guererro brothers during 1988. He was in memphis feuding with Jeff Jarett, working as a heel, at the very beginning of the year, however left shortly thereafter for the new USA promotion in Knoxville. While waiting for it to get started, he worked in Georgia independents as Lazertron. He then began as a heel in USA in March, feuding mainly with Wendall Cooley. He came to the AWA in May to feud with Badd company with his brothers but worked mainly full time in USA. He appeared for Global as a heel in July and for cross state rival Florida Championship in August as Lazertron. He resumed his part time schedule with the AWA in August before beginning a full time job in Tennessee as a gym instructor. He teamed with his brothers at Superclash III to defeat the RPMs and Cactus Jack.

MANDO GUERERRO (Mando Guererro) - Mando was a regular for west coast independents during the first few months of the year and also worked as a trainer for American Women Wrestling Federation. he worked the opening matches for the NWA when they came to the west coast and worked part time for the AWA. he joined his brothers in a feud with Badd Company in May. July had him working the California independents again with a trip or two to Mexico. He resumed a part time schedule with the AWA that lasted till the end of the year, culminating

with a match against the RPM's and Cactus Jack at Superclash III.

KING HAKU (Uliuli Fifita) - Just plain Haku began the year as part of Bobby heenan's Islanders tag team, teaming with Tonga Kid (Sam Fatu). They were involved in a feud with the British Bulldogs which featured the ridiculous kidnapping of the Bulldog's mascot mathilda. They wrestled Powers and Roma at the Royal Rumble. At wrestlemania, they teamed with manager Heenan to wrestle the bulldogs and Koko B Ware and won the match. Haku began teaming with new partner Islander Siva shortly after WM-IV but that team was doomed from the start and the team disbanded with in a month. Haku then became the replacement for Harley Race in the King role, complete with coronation. He got a small push in that role before being relegated to doing jobs for Hogan in September-October. he was the defendant in a lawsuit filed in maryland stemming from an incident where he allegedly bit the nose of a bar patron.

SCOTT HALL (scott Hall) - Scott began 1988 in memphis where he worked in the king of the ring tournament. He also teamed with Ken Wayne until about February when he left the promotion. He headed o the CWF where he feuded with Humongous, but that stay lasted only about a month before he toured Japan with New Japan. He did not return to the United States, but worked in Europe for Otto Wanz. he toured Japan again in September and worked in the US again only at the very end of the year when he surfaced in Florida Championship Wrestling.

STAN HANSEN (John Stanley Hansen) - As far as we can tell, the only date Hansen worked in the United States was an independent date in Hawaii in November. He had several tours of Japan with the All Japan group including 2/20-3/11, 3/26-4/4 . 5/14-6/24, 7/2-7/21 and also tours in October and December. He teamed with Terry Gordy for the annual tag team tournament there and they won it.

BRET HART (Bret Hart) - see HART FOUNDATION.

HART FOUNDATION: Bret Hart (Bret Hart) & Jim Neidhart (James Neidhart) - They worked as heels in the early part of the year, winding up a feud with Strike Force over the tag belts in the WWF. In February, they teamed with stablemate honky Tonk man in a series of matches against Strike Force and Savage. Most of these matches were cage matches in which the last person left inthe cage was the loser. bret turned babyface at Wrestlemania during the opening battle royal. he and Bad News Brown were the last ones left in the ring and when it looked like they would split the prize, bad News jumped Bret from behind and threw him out. bret retaliated by smashing bad News' trophy. The two had their matches around the country after that with Bret doing the job for the most part. Jim sooned joined him after they dumped Jimmy Hart as a manager. Neidhart worked his matches (or non matches as the case may be) against George Steele hwile Bret was involved in the singles matches against Brown. The rest of the summer and fall was spent working with Jimmy Hart's new team, the Rougeau brothers. This series of matches ranged from good to disappointing. The Hart Foundation feuded with them until a new feud began with another of Hart's team, this one being Honky Tonk Man and greg valentine. This had just gotten underway as the year came to a close.

GARY HART (larry kevins) - Gary Hart was the manager of Al Perez when 1988 got underway in the World Class area. Although technically a hell, they were doiing babyface interviews. They left WCCW in late March and began in the NWA. He managed perez there as well as Larry Zbyszko. he took on the contract of Abdullah the Butcher late in the year.

JIMMY HART (James Hart) - Jimmy was he manager of the Hart Foundation and honky Tonk man at the beginning of the year. he appeared in drag as Peggy Sue when he was banned from ringside. Jimmy was the victim of Brutus the Barber Beefcake at Wrestlemania, losing his hair that day. He returned after Wrestlemania to try and manage the Hart Foundation, but was fired, so he took on the Rougeau brothers as clients. At one point, he helped manage Demolition with Mr Fuji in matches with the Hart Foundation.

OWEN HART (Owen Hart) - Owen started the year in Japan feuding with Hiro Hase in one of the best feuds of the year. He returned to his native Calgary in February to resume a feud with Makhan Singh over the North American belt. He missed two weeks due to an injured back. In March he made his first appearance with Titan on a tryout basis and did a job to Hercules' backbreaker as Owen Hart. He returned to Stampede to feud once more with Singh. He finally lost the North American belt to him on 5/6 ending a one year reign. He toured Japan again from 5/24-6/26 for a final time. He began on the Titan "C" team, wrestling under a hood as Blue Angel, Blue Lazer, and finally Blue Blazer. he debuted on TV in September and worked with barry Horowitz around the country in the opening bout of arena shows. These were some of the finest preliminary bouts of the year. The second time around the horn saw him working with Scott Casey and Titan toning down his act. He injured his groin at Survivor series when he missed a leapfrog over Greg Valentine. he submitted to Greg's figure four on that card. He spent the rest of the year recovering from the groin injury.¶

MICHAEL HAYES (Michael Seitz) - Michael began the year in the NWA working with Ric Flair in a series of matches. he was fired after missing a few shows with no notice, but he surfaced immediately in the World Class area, but doing interviews

only. He was ready to put the Freebird-Von Erich wars behind him, yet former partner Buddy Roberts was still involved inthe feud and didn't want to. This led to an eventual split up when michael did a concert on 3/4 in which a brawl between the Von Erichs and Freebirds erupted with Michael caught in the middle. Buddy hit Michael and thier feud began. Michael was in Kerry's corner the night he lost the WCCW version of the world title to Iceman Parsons. he wrestled tery Gordy on the parade of Champions card, losing, but keeping his hair after Gordy refused to cut it. He then saved Gordy from an attack by Roberts, tatum and Victory, but the two never got back together. hayes continued his feud with Buddy and Roberts' new team, the Samoan Swat Team through the summer, teaming with Steve Cox. They traded the world Class tag belts back and forth during this feud. He also worked the Hawaiian independent in November that featured many of the US stars who were returning from Japan. At Superclash III in December, he teamed with Cox to lose to the SST, taking the pin himself. He left World Class on 12/30 to rejoin the NWA in early 1989.

BILLY JACK HAYNES (William Haynes Jr.) - Working for the WWF in the beginning, he teamed with Ken Patera in a feud with Demolition. He was pulled from Titan shows in February when it was discovered he had a heart problem. He quit the WWF voluntarily to start his own promotion in opposition to Don Owen in Oregon. He received his promoters license in March and the Oregon Wrestling Federation began in business in April. In May, he won his own promotion's championship by defeating Blackstud Williams in a tournament. He lost the belt to Rip Oliver in may and the promotion ran out of gas and money in July. Billy Jack left wrestling at that point and at last report was running a gym in Oregon.

BOBBY HEENAN (Raymond Heenan) - The co-host of Prime Time Wrestling on the USA Network kept himself as the lead manager in the WWF throughout the year, managing a variety of wrestlers. he began the year by selling the contract of Andre the Giant to Ted Dibiase. He managed the Islanders in their feud with the British Bulldogs. he teamed with them at Wrestlemania against the Bulldogs and Koko B Ware and got the pin on Koko. When they returned from the post WM break, it was announced that managers would not work on the road so heenan began wrestling Koko around the country, and winning the matches. This led to him issuing an open challenge which was accepted by the Ultimate Warrior and Heenan wearing the old weasel suit when he lost to him. In June he announced that he had found a replacement for Harley Race and named haku as the new king. he sold hercules' contract to DiBiase in October and took over the management of newcomers Terry Taylor and the Brainbusters.

CURT HENNIG (Curtis Hennig) - Curt started the year as AWA champion feuding wth Greg Gagne over the belt. he also had a series of matches with Wahoo McDaniel. he had some trouble holding on to the belt as it was held up in two different areas at once in February. He lost a cage match to Greg gagne on the farwell to the Minneaplis Auditorium card and the belt was held up while he considered an offer from Titan. It was finally ruled that the match had not been a title match when Curt decided to stay. At the same time, he worked in the Pacific Northwest as a babyface and the belt was held up there as well when his opponent, the grappler, used a loaded boot to win the match. He feuded over the next few months with Wahoo before losing the belt to Jerry Lawler on 5/9. He then worked in Memphis trying to regain the belt as well as a few dates in the CWF. This allowed the AWA to get out of payinghis guarantee. He was "suspended for life" from the AWA after he finally quit and went to Titan. He worked the "C" team shows and opening bouts against Jim Brunzell until his character could be established. He became "Mr. perfect", a star at everything he tried and was introduced in a series of short clips on the syndicated WWF show. He was the co-survivor in the Survivor Series with Dino Bravo.

HERCULES (Ray Fernandez) - Hercules dropped Hernandez (with an "H" as opposed to his real name with an "F") and worked as a heel in the early part of the year feuding with Ultimate Warrior. He lost at Wrestlemania to Warrior. He toured Europe with Titan after WM and returned to work a final series of matches against warrior around the country. He was then made into the designated jobber, doing jobs for showever needed to get over. At Summer Slam, he did a clean in the middle job for Jake roberts including getting snaked. In October, Bobby Heenan sold his contract to Ted DiBiase, but Herc resented that and turned babyface to feud with Ted and Virgil.

WILLIE B. HERT (Pez Whatley) - January saw Pez as part of the Jive Tones with partner Tiger Conway Jr. They were basically a jobber tag team in the NWA. The team split up when Conway left the group and Pez continued to do preliminary work in the NWA through May. He then joined the CWF as Willie B Hert in a babyface role. He feuded with the Drill Instructor in June before his big chance came in July. He became the lead babyface fo the promotion when he and his son were atacked by Eddie Gilbert and Paul E dangerously. After Gilbert's firing, his role was somewhat diminished and in September, he worked part time for Puerto Rico. He returned to the CWF on a full time basis and won the battle royal at the Road to Birmingham tournament in October. He began teaming with Danny davis and they entered the CWF tag team tournament in November but lost. He went back to wrestling as a single and feuded with new comer Black Bart through the end of the year.

PHIL HICKERSON (Phil Hickerson) - Phil did not enter the wrestling scene until May when he came to the CWA with partner Don Bass. bass quit the promotion before long and Hickerson worked as a single. He beat Max Pain for the CWA title in July and feuded with Scott Steiner over the belt. He held the belt through the fall. He took on downtown Bruno as his manager and did an angle where Bruno became his adopted son. He appeared in the All Japan tag team tournament in November and teamed with Jerry Blackwell. he returned to Memphis on the last day of the year with a new name. He shaved his head and wanted to be called P. Y. Chu Hi because of what he had learned on his tour of Japan.

HULK HOGAN (Terry Gene Bollea) - As Hogan began his 5th year as WWF champion, they were setting an angle where he would lose the belt. In January, he did not wrestle on the Royal Rumble show, but did a contract signing with Andre the Giant for a a match on 2/5. Andre upset the table on him and left him for dead in the ring. On the 2/5 show, broadcast on NBC TV live from Indianapolis, he lost the belt to Andre in a controversial match. He had his shoulder clearly lifted a the count of one, but the referee counted three anyway. It was then revealed that the referee had not been Dave Hebner but a twin brother. The angle with the twin referees was never played out to give us a full explanation. Hogan spent the time up till WM-IV working in tag matches with various partners including Bam Bam Bigelow and Jim Duggan against Andre and DiBiase. He drew a bye in the first round of the Wrestlemania tournament and went to a double DQ with Andre inthe second round. He helped Randy savage win the WWF title over DiBiase when he sneaked in the ring and clobbered DiBiase with a chair. he took four months off to film a movie called "No Holds Barred" which is scheduled for release in the spring of 1989. He returned to action in August and was announced as Savage's secret partner for the Summerslam show. He took to wearing a war bonnet on his return in an attempt by Titan to hide his rapidly balding head. he feuded with DiBiase after filming the movie. In October he was handcuffed to a railing by Big Bossman during a Brother Love segment, and destroyed. He was the co-survvor at the Survivor series with Savage as their break up started to fester. he feuded wtih Bossman in a series of matches for the rest of the year.

HONKY TONK MAN (Wayne Ferris) - the start of 1988 saw HTM embroiled in a feud with Randy Savage over the intercontinental belt. He refused to do a job on natinal TV the night of the live nBC show which ultimately led to Savage becoming the new WWF champion. he teamed with the Hart Foundation during February to feud with Strike Force and Savage. He wrestled Brutus Beefcake at Wrestlemania and lost via DQ to set up a feud with him. That feud continued on until Summer Slam where he was scheduled to wrestle Beffy for a final time, but Beefy had been 'injured" by Ron bass and Ultimate Warrior became a last minute replacement and beat Honky for the title. They had a series of rematches across the country that lasted almost until the end of the year. honky began teaming with Greg Valentine late in the year and they began to feud with the Hart Foundation after Honky smashed his guitar over Bret Hart's head.

TIM HORNER (Tim Horner) - Tim was paired with Brad Armstrong in the NWA in January where they formed the Lightening Express. They had just begun a feud with the New Breed that fizzled when the New Breed broke up. They then resumed a feud with the Sheepherders that had been begun by the Rock and Roll Express, but was necessitated when the R & R quit the NWA. They wound up on the losing end most of the time and were dropped to preliminary status from that time on. Horner continued with the NWA after teaming with Armstrong at the Crockett Cup, working mainly in singles action as a glorified jobber. He left in August and entered the CWF where he was used in a secondary babyface role. He entered the Road to Birmingham tournament and lost in the first round to Jerry Stubbs. In November, they were set to turn Tim heel, but he decided to sign a contract with Titan where he became a full time jobber.

SAM HOUSTON (Michael Smith) - Sam was used in the role of a jobber throughout the year in the WWF. He was used in January to introduce Bad News Brown who beat him to a pulp. Sam continued a feud in arena shows against Danny Davis, winning those bouts. he was again used to introduce Terry taylor to the WWF in July when he teamed with Taylor on TV. Taylor turned on him after the match. In September, Sam got wins over NWA World Champion Mike George on a WWF swing through the midwest when George was used as a last minute replacement on the cards.

HILLBILLY JIM (James Morris) - Jim worked part time in the WWF this year, never involved in a feud or any kind of major push.

LORD HUMONGOUS (Sid Eudie) - As a heel in the CWF, Humongous started the year by winning the Continental title from Danny Davis. he was involved in a bench press contest with Doug Furnas in which he attacked Furnas during Furnas' lift. This began a feud there, but it was short lived as he forgot to catch Furnas when Doug attempted an out of the ring dive and suffered a concussion. He had another short lived feud with Scott Hall in February. He was used in the killer heel role throughout the rest of the spring with Downtown Bruno as his manager. He teamed with Detroit Demolition during May, but soon turned babyface to feud with him. He took on Shane Douglas as his new tag team partner as they feuded with the heels in the area. Together, they won the CWF tag team titles. In September, they finally announced that he and Shane were cousins. in October, Humongous lost

a loser leave town match to Koshina. He went to the CWA as Sid Vicious where he was courted as part of the Studd's stable. In December, he won the CWA title from Rookie Brian Lee.

AUSTIN IDOL (Dennis McCord) - Idol was scheduled for a series of matches in Southern Championship Wrestling, but began the year by no showing them. He started to work for USA in Knoxville and was billed as the first International champion there. The rest of the late-winter, early spring, he split his time between the CWF and USA promotions. He worked for All Japan for a tour during March-April before returning for a short period to USA then working full time for the CWF as their lead babyface. There he was recruited by Eddie Gilbert and Paul E. Dangerously, but he refused their offers and feuded with them as a result. In August, he returned for a short period to the CWA for some matches against Lawler, but that didn't last more than a couple of weeks. Returning once more to the CWF, he teamed with Jerry Stubbs who turned on Idol to set up another feud. At the Road to Birmingham, he made it past the first round opponent, Terry Gordy by DQ before losing to Stubbs in the second round. He remained with Continental for the rest of the year while working an occasional independent card as well.

IRON SHIEK (Hossein Khosrow Vasiri) - As the year began, the Iron Sheik had just left the World Class area and went to work for a whole host of independent promotions. By February, he was back working for the WWF. He was fired from there less than two weeks later. He once again went to work for the independents around the country until he was hired back by the WWF again in July. He was scheduled to get a minor push this time and during the time he did manage to spend here, he even got a submission win over newcomer Terry Taylor. By August, he had been fired again, however. He then went to work in PUerto Rico and was entered in the tournament there to determin a new Universal champion. He returned stateside to work the independents again. In December he showed up at Superclash III and did a run in on Sgt Slaughter.

ISLANDERS: Haku (Uliuli Fifita), Toma (Sam Fatu), Sivi (Mas Taogaga) - Under the guidance of Bobby the Brain Heenan, the Islanders began the year feuding with the British Bulldogs. They had just kidnapped Mathilda and were holding her hostage in what proved to be one of the worst angles of the year. They wrestled Paul Roma and JIm Powers at the Royal Rumble. At Wrestlemania, they teamed with manager Bobby Heenan against the Bulldogs and Koko B. Ware. Heenan got the pinfall over Koko. Toma quit the team in March and the new Islander Sivi was introduced. He had spent the last few weeks being tatooed from the waist down. This proved to be for nothing as the team was disbanded in June.

JOEY JACKSON (Joseph Jackson) - Joey began the year as a heel in the Pacific Northwest, teaming with Rip Oliver in a feud with the Southern Rockers. He aligned himself with Abuddah Dein. In February, he donned a hood and wrestled there as Destroyer #1 and feuded with Mike Miller. He left the promotion in March to join the new Oregon Wrestling Federation. He debuted there in May as a babyface, but the fans were used to him as a heel and so he was booed. He worked there in a minor role until the promotion folded in July. He aligned himself with Mel Saracino and his new Pacific Coast Wrestling Federation and worked for him when the promotion opened.

MARTY JANETTY (Martin Janetty) - see ROCKERS

JEFF JARRETT (Jeffrey Jarrett) - Jeff worked the entire year for his father's promotion, the CWA in Memphis with an occassional trip to the World Class area after Jerry Jarret bought an interest there. Unlike other offspring of promoters, Jeff is a legitamate talent and proved it by accepting a push when needed and taking a backseat when he needed to do that as well. He began 1988 feuding with Jimmy Jack Funk. In March, he reformed a tag team with Billy Travis and feuded with the Rockers and with Gary Young and Doug Gilbert. He went single in April and had a "tweener" feud with Ken Wayne. Neither actually turned and it was left up to the fans who to cheer for. It turned out to be about 50-50. May saw a feud with Tommy and Doug Gilbert. June had him battling Robert Fuller and Studd's Stable. Fuller "broke" Jeff's arm and he had to wrestle with a cast for a while, using it as a weapon against Fuller and comapany. In June, he was one of the finalists in the Renegades Rampage. The feud with Fuller continued until late October when the World Class promotion was aquired by Jarrett and Jeff began feuding with Eric Embry over the light heavyweight title. They exchanged the belt back and forth a few times with Jeff losing it for good at Superclash III in less than three minutes.

JASON THE TERRIBLE (Karl Kroffatt) - Jason began the year having just turned babyface in Calgary. He continued to wear the hockey mask as part of his gimmick using it as a weapon when needed. He began by feuding with Makhan SIngh. He was made an honorary member of Bad Company (Bruce Hart & Brian Pillman). In February, he began a feud with Steve DiSalvo and they did an angle where DiSalvo destroyed him on TV. He continued to feud with Singh, teaming with Owen Hart on occassion to do so. In April, he was "suspended" so that he could tour with New Japan. There, he took the name of Barry Gaspar and teamed with Bob Orton in a pirate gimmick. He was there from 5/20-6/24. He returned to Calagary to resume the feud with DiSalvo. He left again for Japan from 8/26-9/22 where he did the pirate gimmick again.

When he returned to Calgary in September, DiSalvo had turned babyface and was feuding with Singh so Jason began teaming with DiSalvo. He left the promotion again in November, this time venturing to PUerto Rico where he began feuding with TNT. IN December, he won the Carribean title.

PAUL JONES (Paul Fredricks) - Paul began the year managing the Powers of Pain and Ivan Koloff. When the Powers jumped to the WWF in July, he began calling himself "Power of Pain" but that was dropped after someone realized how stupid it sounded. He brought in the Russian Assassins one at a time, the first to team with Ivan during the Bash shows and the second when Ivan turned babyface. He also brought in Abdullah the Butcher in October. Jones' usefullness as a manager may have seen its better days and there were indications by the end of the year that he may be on his last legs as a manager.

JUNKYARD DOG (Sylvester Ritter) - JYD received many dubious honors during the year including a very close second place finish in our ballting for worst wrestler of the year. He finished just half a point behind Ultimate Wrrior. He began the year involved in a feud with Ron Bass which lasted for the first seven or eight months of the year. He did wrestle Butch Reed every once in a while, but working with Bass night in, night out was the rule rather than the exception. He wrestled Rick Rude at SummerSlam, then spent the month of September trading pinfalls with One Man Gang. He went to Europe with Titan in October and was fired there. He was scheduled to work in Calgary, but went to work instead for the NWA in December, teaming with Ivan Koloff at Starrcade to take on the Russian Assassins.

KAMALA (James Harris) - The independent market was the main source of income for Kamala during 1988. He began working just a bit part time throughout the south including for Buck Robley in Little Rock Arkansas. In May, he worked for SCW in Georgia and teamed with Abdullah the Butcher. He entered World Class with General Skandor Akbar in June where he feuded with the Von Erichs. September had him in PUerto Rico where he had some of the locals worried that he might be ther -to avange the death of his friend Bruiser Brody, but there were no incidents. He worked the rest of the year sporadically in World Class, feuding with the Bostwani Beast, leaving there in Late November. He again worked in PUerto Rico and Memphis before the year end.

KEVIN KELLY (Kevin Wacholv) - It was a disappointing year for Kelly as he had vowed to use the line "Put on your tennis shoes, little man, and take a jog around my back!" at least a hundred and fity times. He started things off in the AWA with Medussa Miceli, working as a heel. Just as he began a babyface turn against Hennig, he took off for the new OWF. He worked there as full time as what he could until it folded in July. He then went home to Minnesota wherehe tried to work for the indepdents and even promoted his own card in November.

KILLER BEES: Jim Brunzell (James Brunzell) & B. Brian Blair (Brian Blair) - It wasn't the best of years for the Kiler Bees. In real life, the two couldn't get along and in the ring, the fans were tired of their mask trick and goody two shoes image. The first few months of the year saw them wrestling the Rougeau brother in arena shows while the WWF tried to decide which team would be turned heel and which team would eventually be let go. The Rougeaus were the ones chosen to turn heel and the Killer Bees were history by the end of the year. In July, the team was pretty well disbanded and the two were wrestling as singles. Brunzell worked against Hennig in arena shows when Hennig first came to the WWF and Blair took some time off. They were both given notice by November that they would be in need of a new employer after the Survivor Series.

IVAN KOLOFF (James Paris) - Ivan seems near the end of his illustrious career and 1989 may well be his final year. He began 1988 aligned with Paul JOnes and the POwers of Pain, being the weak link in the chain for the most part. At the Crockett Cup, he teamed with Dick Murdoch and they won their first round match up while losing the second. He continued with Jones and POwers through the summer and was invovled in the triple tower of doom match at the great american bash. In August Bsh dates, they did a trial babyface turn at selected shows with him splitting up with Paul JOnes and new partner Russian Assassin #1. In September at Clash III, he lost a Russian chain match to Ricky Morton and ended up turning babyface when he attacked Paul JOnes after the match and was attacked himself by Russian Assassin #'s 1 & 2. He reformed his team with nephew Nikita, then tagged with JYD at Starrcade vs the Assassins when Nikita left the promotion.

NIKITA KOLOFF (Scott Simpson) - He began the year as the NWA TV champion but lost that title to Mike Rotundo shortly after the beginning of the year so that he could take some time off from wrestling to be with a sick family member. He had been scheduled to be Dusty Rhodes' partner during the Crockett Cup and they had been seeded #2, but he instead wrestled Ric Flair in one of the main events. He returned to wrestling on 3/27 during Clash I sporting hair. The summer months saw a feud with Al Perez and Gary Hart. In August, he teamed for a short while with Ricky Morton when Robert Gibson left the Rock and Roll Express and the NWA. In September, he reformed his old team with Uncle Ivan to feud with Paul Jones and his Russian Assassin team. He left the NWA for Nelson Royal's pro motion in late November-early December.

BUDDY LANDELL (Buddy Landel) - Buddy began the year in a tour with All Japan. His constant jumping between promotions earned him our frequent flyers award (or at least a citation from the postal service for most changes of addresses). He returned from Japan to the CWF but left there almost immediately for the new USA promotion in Knoxville. There, he attacked Doug Furnas to start a feud with Furnas over the Tennessee State Championship. He won the belt from Furnas in March and traded it back and forth over the next few month before winning it and ending the feud in May. He then lost the title to Wendall Cooley in June and a feud developed over a short term. He left the promotion in July, losing his matches to Colley via forfeit as the promotion buried him and went to work for Puerto Rico. It was his misfortune to show up there the day after Bruiser Brody was murdered and he led a walkout of American wrestlers on the island. He popped up in Memphis for one date in August then began work for an independent in the Carolinas. He returned to PUerto Rico mid August and won the Carribean title there. The work there lasted a couple of months before moving on to Memphis again for a short period in November. He then moved on again, this time hooking up with Nelson Royal's promotion in North Carolina where he stayed until almost the end of the year.

STAN LANE (Breck Stanfield Lane) - see MIDNIGHT EXPRESS.

JERRY LAWLER (Jerry Lawler) - Lawler began a very busy year by winning a king of the ring tournament in Memphis in a final over Bill Dundee. The finals had come down to Lawler, Scott Hall, Jeff Jarrett and Bill Dundee. All four were babyfaces and there was heavy speculation about who would turn heel. As it turned out, no one did, with Lawler getting a DQ win over Hall who used a piledriver (but was unaware it was illegal to use in the CWA) and by pinning Dundee. He and Dundee then began a feud of the babyfaces that lasted about four to five weeks with fans in Memphis waiting each week to see how, or who would turn. It was Dundee who eventually turned and the feud continued for a short time after that. Jerry worked his first AWA TV taping in Las Vegas in March but returned to Memphis to feud with newcomer Eddie Gilbert in one of the wildest feuds in recent history. That feud included fireballs and getting bodyslammed through the windshield of a car in the parking lot. In late April, they began to set up the 5/9 card in which Lawler would win the AWA title from Curt Hennig. If Lawler failed to win the title he was going to retire. This stipulation brought out the Memphis media in full force and the card sold out the Mid South Coliseum. He beat Hennig and began to tour with the belt. In Memhis, he feuded with Hennig over the strap. He made his first trip to World Class with the belt in June where he defended against Iceman Parsons and Terry Taylor. He even made a tour of England from 6/30 through 7/6 with the AWA belt. In July, he had several dates in the CWF against Austin Idol. When it was rumored that Jarrett would be purchasing the World Class group, a series of unification matches with WCCW champion Kerry Von Erich began and ran through the end of the year. Almost every conceivable finish was used with the belt being held up several times. While in Texas, Lawler would play the heel, but on his return to Memphis against Von Erich, he played the babyface. He continued to work AWA tapes in his spare time and briefly had a feud going therewith Teijo Khan. At Superclash III, Jerry won the unified title when the match with Von Erich was stopped due to excessive bleeding on Kerry's part. Lawler continued to feud with Von Erich after that and to defend the belt in Memphis.

BROTHER LOVE (Bruce Pritchard) - Introduced in June on the Challenge syndicated show, Brother Love made the transition from the broadcast booth as Bruce Pritchard to Brother Love without many fans making a connection. His role was a take off of TV evangelists without ever mentioning religion or God. He was brought in by Ted DiBIase and played the role of the heel interviewer. He was instumental in several feuds as the WWF used his segment of broadcasts to set up future matches and angles including the whole concept of Summer Slam and the angle where Bossman beat up Hulk Hogan.

LEX LUGER (Larry Pfohl) - Luger began the year in his new babyface role, feuding with former teammates/stablemates, the four horsemen. He teamed regularly with Barry Windham in the feud. Together, they were seeded number six in the Crockett Cup before they won the tag belts at Clash of Champions I on 3/27 from Tully and ARn. The title reign was short, however as Barry turned on Lex out of the blue just prior to the Crockett Cup, leaving Lex without a partner for the Cup. He ended up teaming with Sting, whose partner Ron Garvin had been injured and wound up winning the tournament. In a typical Dusty move, Luger did not feud with his former tag team partner after the Cup, but rather with Ric Flair. He also did not team with Sting after the Cup as well. He signed to meet Flair for the championship during the Baltimore PPV Bash show, but was attacked by the four horsemen in the parking lot during the Clash of Champions II show. At the Baltimore Bash, he had Flair up in the torture rack, but the Maryland State Athletic Commission stopped the bout because of blood on Luger's part. The cut was barely visible. This was done to set up a series of rematches between the two across the country with each town being told that this was the only rematch between the wrestlers. The second time around the horn, the had special referees work the match (John Ayers or Johnny Weaver). During September, the rumors ran wild of his walking out. He did suffer an eye injury which kept him out

of action for a week or so in October. He resumed his feud with Flair and a match was signed for Starrcade being billed as the last time the two would meet. There was a behind the scenes power struggle here as Luger insisted that if he lost, it would have to be a tainted loss (i. e. foot on ropes, outside interference, etc.). There was a special stipulation that if Flair was DQ'd in the match, the title would change hands. Luger ended up losing the match and Flair had his feet on the ropes. Luger told Flair at a party afterward that he didn't have to do that which was a compliment to Flair's work in the match.

DUTCH MANTELL (Wayne Cowman) - Dutch started 1988 in the CWF as a heel involved in an angle where he held Wendall Cooley's contract and was taking all of Cooley's earnings. They feuded over the first several months of the year with Cooley eventually winning his contract back. Dutch became part of Studds Stable in February. He worked a couple of one shot shows in PUerto Rico but remained full time with Continental. In late April, he turned babyface to feud with Robert Fuller and his former stablemates. He worked a few more dates in Puerto Rico in May before going to Memphis for a one shot against Lawler. That one shot turned into a regular job with him feuding with incoming Fuller and Golden. During the late summer he split his time between CWF, PUerto Rico and Central States. He was entered in the Road to Birmingham tournament in October where he drew Mr. Wrestling II in the first round. He won a coin flip to advance in the tournament, but lost to Dirty White Boy in the second round. After losing, he spent a little time with Southern Championship Wrestling before returning to the CWF. He turned heel while doing color commentary and attacked the Bullet and aligned himself with Dirty White Boy and Jerry Stubbs. He continued to work there until December when he entered the CWA to feud with Jerry Lawler.

RICK MARTEL (Richard Vignault) - The year began for Rick as part of Strike Force with partner Tito Santana. They held the WWF tag team belts at the time and were feuding with the Hart Foundation over the belts. In February, they began wrestling Demolition in house shows, winning the bouts via clean pinfall. With that usually being an indication of an impending title change, they lost the belts to Demolition at Wrestlemania. After the WM break, the resumed action against Demoliton around the country. In June, Rick decided to take some time off to be with his sick wife and he did a stretcher job on TV at the hands of Demolition. He did not return to the WWF for the rest of the year, although, he did work a couple of dates in PUerto Rico in December.

MIDNIGHT EXPRESS: Bobby Eaton (Robert Eaton) & Stan Lane (Breck Stanfield Lane) - January saw the team working mainly in singles action. Eaton spent some time away from the ring when his wife gave birth to a baby. They did some work with Dick Murdoch as their partner in the early going, feuding with Ron & Jim Garvin. March saw the beginning of our FEUD OF THE YEAR with the Fantastics. They were seeded number four at the Crockett Cup in April. The US belts were lost to the Fantastics after the Cup and the feud continued, producing some of the best matches of the year with two or three being strong candidates for match of the year. They won the US title back from the Fantastics on the Baltimore Bsh PPV show. Cornette and company then turned their attention toward Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson and the NWA version of the world tag team belts. It began as a heel vs heel feud until the horsemen attacked Eaton in a dressing room incident, making the Express full fledged babyfaces. They won the titles from Tully & Arn when the heels jumped to the WWF. They lost those belts to the Road Warriors in late October. The same week, they were attacked by Paul E. Dangerously and the Original Midnight Express during a TV taping at WTBS. They began a feud which would last through the end of the year. Wrestling Forum readers heaped the awards on this team this year as they won the Tag Team of the Year Award, and were involved in Best Angle of the Year, and Best Feud of the year.

WAHOO MCDANIEL (Edward McDaniel) - As booker for the AWA, Wahoo feuded himself with AWA champion Curt Hennig over the first few months of the year. After Hennig dropped the strap to Lawler, Wahoo involved himself with Manny Fernandez in one of the bloodiest feuds of the year. It seemed that no matter how small the crowd, these two always bled buckets. The feud was begun when Wahoo was presented with a war bonnet from fellow indian wrestler Jay Strongbow Jr. Fernandez appeared and destroyed both the bonnet and Wahoo. He teamed with Strongbow on a couple of occassions (mainly TV tapings), and for the remained of the year, ran the feud with Manny. Wahoo worked in Puerto Rico in September for a few dates, made some appearances in Central States in October, and even worked a World Class show in December. At Superclash III, he defeated Manny in a strap match.

MIGHTY WILBUR (Randy Buchanon) - In what is destined to be the answer to an obscure trivia question, Wilbur did his Hillbilly Jim impression in the NWA for the first half of the year before disappearing into thin (well, maybe chubby) air. He was one of the finalists in the Bunkhouse Stampede Finals, but was out of action due to a legit broken leg. He returned to action around the time of the Crockett Cup and teamed with Jimmy Valaint as one of the jobber teams. He worked the undercard of NWA shows through July, doing jobs for whoever he was asked to.

MIKE MILLER (Michael Miller) - Miller worked as a babyface in the Pacific Northwest at the beginning of the year, feuding with Rip Oliver and Avalanche. He left the Owen promotion in March to join with Billy Jack and the new OWF. There he continued his feud with fellow jumpee Rip Oliver. In July, he began feuding with Coco Samoa. He teamed with Brian Adams to win the OWF tag team titles one night before the promotion folded. He agreed to work for Mel Saracino and his new Pacific Coast promotion In August, but went to Memphis in October while waiting. There he worked as a heel as part of Studd's Stable and he feuded with Brian Lee over the CWA title. He returned to the West Coast to work for Saracino in the PCCW as a babyface, feuding with Coco Samoa. He remained there until the end of the year, hoping that the promotion would take off.

MOONDOG MORETTI (Edward Moretti) - Moondog was a regular in the Pacific Northwest through the first half of the year working as a heel. His role was in the mid level range which meant he feuded with whoever they needed an opponent for. He aligned himself at various times with Abuddah Dein, Rip Oliver and Avalanche. His main push came in June when he began a regular feud with Matt BOrne. That didn't last long as he jumped to the OWF in July. The only problem was, he jumped one day before it closed up shop. He signed on with Saracino and went to work for him full time in October as the booker. He was fired as booker in December over a dispute as to who was to be pushed and who was to do jobs.

RIP MORGAN (????) - Rip began 1988 in World Class, wrestling under the name of "The Real Thing." There he feuded with the Missing Link. He stayed there until April when he was brought into the NWA as the new flag bearer for the Sheepherders. It wasn't long before he was playing the role of designated jobber. He toured with New Japan from 7/15-8/7. He teamed for a while in the NWA with Larry Zbyszko. When the Sheepherders left the NWA, he stayed behind to do jobber work.

RICKY MORTON (Richard Morton) - see ROCK & ROLL EXPRESS.

DON MURACO (Donald Muraco) - Don worked for the WWF in the beginning of 1988, feuding with Butch Reed. At Wrestlemania, he won his first round match up by DQ over Dino Bravo, but lost to Ted DiBiase in the second round. He returned from the break period to feud with Greg Valentine after Greg had attakced Muraco's manager, BIlly Superstar Graham. This feud went on through the early fall. Muraco went to Europe with Titan in October and for one reason or another, was fired while in France. He went to Calgary from there where he won the North American championship from Makhan Singh on 12/9.

DICK MURDOCH (Hart Richard Murdoch) - Dick began the year working in the NWA as a heel and feuding with NIkita Koloff and Dusty Rhodes. He had aligned himself with Jim Cornette and teamed occassionally with the Midnight Express. In March, he was on tour of Japan with New Japan for a couple of weeks before returning to the NWA. At the Crockett Cup, he teamed with Ivan Koloff, but they were stopped in the second round. He continued to work the NWA as a heel until his next tour of Japan from 5/20-6/26 where he reformed his old tag team from the WWF with Adrian Adonis. Coming back the the US, he again came to the NWA where he took part in the Bash Tour, often feuding with Dusty Rhodes. On 7/31 in Detroit, he teamed with the original Sheik to wrestle Dusty and Kevin Sullivan. Sullivan turned on Dusty, but Dick turned on the Sheik making him the babyface. He then worked for the rest of the year for the NWA involved in a minor babyface role. In November, he took some time off to work an independent show for Sam Munchnick in honor of Bruiser Brody in St Louis and then toured New Japan once again in the annual tag team tournament. He teamed there with Bob Orton.

THE NASTY BOYS: Jerry Sags (Jerry Seganovich) & Brian Nobs (Brian Knobs) - In their second year of work, these two seemed to have problems staying in one place. They began the year in Memphis, but wrestled on spot shows only. They returned to the AWA in February but lasted only two weeks there. Whatever they did to get the boot there must not have been too serious as they were back again in March and continued to work there as heels, feuding with the Midnight Rockers. They were unceremoniously fired in May, but the next night they "won" the AWA belts in an independent show in Pennsylvania. The Midnight Rockers had also been fired, but had failed to return the championship belts. They "defended" the belts against the Nasty Boys on the independent card where the Nasty boys worked in front of basically a home town crowd as babyfaces. Although they got a clean win, the belts, and the "title", they did give the belts back to the AWA. In July, and August, they found work with Florida Championship Wrestling and worked there as babyfaces. This relationship lasted through the end of the year for the most part with the Boys taking time off to work an occassional independent card. In November, they defeated Johnny Ace and the Terminator for the Florida State Tag Team Championships and feuded with that team for the remainer of the year.

NORD THE BARBARIAN (John Nord) - Of all the wrestlers profiled in the yearbook, Nord probably had the lightest schedule of they year. He worked for his father's car dealership through the most part of the year, but did venture to Chicago to work for Sam DiCero's Windy City in May. He wrestled Bruiser Brody in one of the wildest brawls the Amphitheatre has seen since themid seventies. He was scheduled to work a card for Windy City in August, but the death of his good friend Brody had placed him in a hospital for depression. He wasnt heard from again until November when he worked a couple of spot independent shows in Minnesota.

RIP OLIVER (Richard Oliver) - Oliver began 1988 in the Pacific Northwest working as a heel and feuding with mike Miller. He also teamed with Joey Jackson in a feud with the Southern Rockers. In March, he jumped ship to the new OWF. He worked a few dates for a florida independent before joining the OWF full ime and resuming his feud with Miller. In May, he won the OWF title from Billy Jack Haynes, bu lost it just one week later to Blackstudd Williams. He left the promotion before it folded. He signed with the Pacific Coast Wrestling Federation, but returned to Owen before they got things underway. For a while, he worked as a Titan jobber, but left when he failed to get a push. In November he once again jumped from Owen to rival PCCW where he was named booker.

ORIGINAL MIDNIHGT EXPRESS: Randy Rose (Randy Alls) & Dennis Condrey (Dennis Condrey) - Paul E. Dangerously's team began the year working in the AWA feuding with rivals the Midnight Rockers. They dropped their AWA tag team titles to the Rockers in an office change when they quit the promotion. The team split up with Rose headed to the Southern Championship area with Paul E and Condrey taking some time off. Rose stayed in SCW for the better part of the first half, forming a tag team with Doug Sommers regularly. In July, the team with Condrey was reformed and they worked for Windy City, winning the tag belts there. Rose worked part time for Deep South during the same time. Condrey went to work for Owen in the Pacific Northwest but left after he saw his first paycheck. Back in Windy City, they dropped the tag belts to the Terminators just before leaving to start in the NWA. There they debuted by attacking Eaton, Lane and Cornette and began a feud that would carry into the new year. The attack on the midnights was voted best angle of the year by our readers.

BOB ORTON (Robert Orton Jr.) - Bob's main source of income this year was derived from Japan where he had several tours of duty. He began in the AWA, debuting there before heading to Japan for his first tour of the year. He worked there with Adrian Adonis for a week. The next tour came in March where he debuted his new gimmick there, that of Pirate Barry Gaspar. His return to the US was not to the AWA but to Northeast Independents where he feuded with David Sammartino. He also worked Southern Championship wrestling feuding there with Dick Slater. He toured Japan once again from 5/20-6/24 as Gaspar and returned to work a few dates in Continental in July. Another tour sent him back to Japan from 8/26-9/22 where he teamed with Calgary's Karl Moffat (Jason) with Moffatt assumng the role of another Gaspar brother. He was arrested on his return flight due to alleged drunkenness on baord the flight. The rest of the year was spent working independents including a stint in Puerto Rico and the Sam Munchnick card in honor of Brody in Novemebr. He ended the year with the ICW in New England.

DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE (???) - April was the debut of this new manager in the AWA. He took over the management of Badd Company Pat Tanaka and Paul Diasmond. He called his stable the Diamond Exchange and added Medussa Micelli before the end of the year. Although we don't know his real name, we do know that prior to and during his stint as manager, he was the manager of a Hooter's Night-club in Florida. Hooter's use waitresses who wear very very short shorts and these are the girls that he used to portray his diamond dolls at ringside. In September, Page took on the contract of Colonel DeBeers.

MAX PAIN (Darrell Peterson) - Billed as being from the Monster factory and being sent to Memphis to "get Lawler", Pain began the year as a rookie in the CWA. He was put into a tag team with Gary Young and the Monster Factory bit was quickly forgotten. They were billed together as the Choirboys and they were Brother Ernest Angel's first tag team, with him claiming to have saved them. They traded the tag titles back and forth with the Bruise Brothers as Pain began to get a push as a singles wrestler. He won the CWA title fromJerry Lawler on 2/8. He was used in the role as a killer heel all the time he held the championship. In March he turned semi babyface when he was asked by his new manager Brickhouse Brown to give he CWA to Curt Hennig so he could be the number one contender and get title shots with now AWA champ Lawler. Pain refused and later in the month, he was attacked by Brown and injured to the point of not being able to defend the title. He then lost the title via forfeit to Brown who held the title for a very short time before Pain beat him for it. He los the title for a final time to Phil Hickerson in July and left the promotion to go back home to the west coast. He remained out of wrestling for the rest of the year before returning under his real name to do some TV jobs for Titan when they came to the west coast.

ICEMAN KING PARSON (King Parsons) - Working as a heel in World Class, Parsons was part of the new Freebirds with Buddy Roberts and Angel of Death. They feuded with the Von Erichs and on 3/25, Iceman won the World Class title from Kerry in a controversial match. Seconded by Terry Gordy and Kerry having Michael Hayes in his corner, the lights at the arena were switched off for a minute or so and when they came back on, Iceman was on top of a bloody Kerry for the pin and the title win. In April, Iceman tried to cut Michael Hayes' hair and they continued a feud that had started when Hayes returned to World Class. Iceman lost the title back

to Kerry on 5/8. He received a few title shots against AWA champ Jerry Lawler when Lawler made a few dates in World Class in June. The feud with Hayes and the Von Erichs continued and in August he won the Texas title by defeating Kerry for the belt. Kerry was defending the belt for brother Kevin. In an attempt to get him over as a super heel, he was given a white Arabian Valet in November by Skandar Akbar, but it still failed to make him any more hated than what he was. Fans perceived him as obnoxious, not as a heel that was to be truly hated. At Superclash III, he beat Brickhouse Brown with the use of a foreign object.

KEN PATERA (Kenneth Patera) - Teaming wth Billy Jack Haynes as the Oregon Connection, Patera and partner began the year involved in a feud with Demolition. He was left on his own after Haynes quit the promotion in March and he worked Wrestlemaina as part of the battle royal. After the wrestlemania break, he feuded with Dino Bravo over who was the strongest. His push as a main liner was almost over by this point and at Summer Slam, he was pinned clean by Bad News Brown. He continued to jobs for the rest of the year until he was let go in November.

AL PEREZ (Alan Perez) - Al was recognized by World Class as their version of the world champ when the year began. He lost the title in March to Kerry Von Erich. Although technically a heel, he had been doing babyface interviews all up to this pont and after being defeated, he shook hands with the new champ. Losing the belt was his swan song for WCCW as he and manager Gary Hart both entered the NWA in April. He teamed with Larry Zbyszko at the Crockett Cup then began a feud withNikita in May. He took part in the Tower of DOom match at the PPV Bash in Baltimore on the heels' side. They tried to set up a couple of feuds for him later in the year but neither got over. The first was with Brad Armstong in August and the other with Dusty late in the year. As the end of the year rolled around, his departure was heavily rumored.

D. J. PETERSON (Dennis peterson) - DJ wrestled for Bob Geigle through the first part of the year, feuding with WWA champ Mike George. These two are co workers at a car dealership in Kansas City and it was joked that the feud started over one selling a car to the other's customer. DJ toured Japan from5/20-6/24. On his return he spent some time as a jobber in the WWf before returning to selling cars and working parttime for the WWA in Kansas City.

SCOTT PETERSON (Scott Peterson) - see SOUTHERN ROCKERS

BRIAN PILLMAN (Brian Pillman) - Brian teamed with Bruce hart to form Bad Company (with just one D) in Calgary as the new year rolled around involved in a feud with Garfield portz and Great Gama. The team continued as the International champs and began to feud with the midnight Cowboys in Mid April. Brian suffered a torn tricept muscle in a dressing room altercation and was out of action for a while. On 7/22, Bad Company lost the International titles to the Cuban Commandoes. He suffered a reoccurance of the torn tricept later in the month after trying to come back too soon. He wrestled his last match for Stampede in August before going home to Cincinnati to recover. He was out of action for mos tof the rest of the year, doing an occasional date for the CWF. Negotiations with the NWA were underway toward the end of the year to be brought in as part of the Paul E Dangerously group, but those plans were on hold as of the end of the year.]

RODDY PIPER (Roderick George Toombs) - As near we can tell, the only wrestling Roddy did during the year was in the movies. He returned to Portland in late April to help Don Owen with a sagging gate there. June saw the release (or escape) of "Hell Comes to Frog Town" on video tape and for some reason it became a cult favorite. His first big movie, "They Live" was released in November to mixed reviews.

JIM POWERS (James Powers) - Jim was part of the Young Stallions ag team with Paul Roma through most of the year, getting a minor push, but mainly doing jobs for whoever needed to get over. He was on he Europe tour in April following Wrestlemania and worked in singles action in the fall of the year.

POWERS OF PAIN: Warlord (Terry Supinski) & Barbarian (John Fuvoulo) - Although the feud with the Road Warriors was on at the start of 1988, they intensified the feud by attacking the Roadies during a bench press contest. The feud lasted throughout the rest of the Powers' stay in the NWA. They were seeded number five in the Crockett Cup. Another atack on the Roadies set up the angle they were going to use in the Bash tour. In this angle, they destroyed Hawk by hurtinghis back with a chair. They jumped to Titan in Late June after finding out they were destined to lose a series of scaffold matches where they were introduced by Tito Santana as babyfaces. They were confused by fans as being the Road Warriors and even took on the Roadies' hair styles and face paint as an attempt to make WWF fans believe the Warriors had jumped. They feuded with the Bolsheviks for their first couple of months before the full scale feud with Demolition. At the Survivor Series in November, they did a double turn with Demolition that left fans even more confused. Powers took on Mr. Fuji as their manager, but it took a major propaganda drive by the WWF publicity department to convince fans that Powers were the heels in the feud. They ended up being the surviving team in the Survivor Series, by the way.

TOM PRITCHARD (Thomas Pritchard) - Tom stared the year by losing the Alabama title to Moondog spot in the CWF. He feuded, however, with Jonathan Boyd and that feud continued through March when Pritchard won a loser leave town match from Boyd. A feud quickly developed with Dirty White Boy Tony Anthony after that with it intensifying on 4/23 when they ran the major angle of the promotion for the year. DWB's valet came out with a black eye and wanted to talk with Tom but he refused to come out. One of the announcers went back and got him and when he came out to help her, Anthony hit him from behind and ended up putting a noose around his neck and hanging him from he ring ropes. This generated the most heat of any angle in the CWF during the year, but was done the same weekend a similar angle was done in Memphis. This lead to the split of ties between the two promotions. The feud with DWB ran all the way through October and culminated with Tom winning the new CWF title from Anthony in the Road to Birmingham tournament. he defeated Kokina and Jerry Stubbs before besting DWB in the final. This was more or less the end of the long feud as Tom began another with first the Grappler #2 and then the Dog (Moondog Spot-Larry Latham). After wrestling all year as a babyface, he turned heel on Brad Armstong late in the year and a feud was just beginning to develop there.

PRIVATE PYLE (Mark Scarpa) - the son of Chief Jay Strongbow, this rookie began working under the name of Mark Young in the CWF as a jobber in May. Less than a month later, he had been renamed Private Pyle by the Drill Instructor and he was doing the Private Nelsonroutine to DI's Sgt Slaughter. He continued to do jobs where assigned and provided little more than comedy relief in his role.

HARLEY RACE (Harley Race) - In what could have been the final year of this legend's career, Race began the year involved in a feud with Hacksaw Jim Duggan. He suffered a burst intestine in April and was sidelined until November. It was thought that the surgery that followed his intestinal problem would have been the end of his career. He was replaced as King of Wrestling by Haku and the WWF even went as far as to do a ceremony where they rang the bell ten times. this is usually reserved for a wrestler who has past away. The surgery was blamed on Hulk Hogan and they used footage from a recent SNME where Race did a tremendous bump, falling for a headbutt on timekeeper's table outside the ring to explain the injury. He returned to the ring in November for the survivor series to feud with Haku over the title of King and lost the match. He s not expected to return to active duty during 1989.

BUTCH REED (Bruce Reed) - At one time one of the best workers in the game, Reed lost his desire somewhere along the line and declined steadily this year. He started things off involved in a feud with Don Muraco although he worked some arena shows opposite Junk Yard Dog as well. He lost in the first round of the Wrestlemania tournament to eventual champ Randy Savage. He quit wrestling shortly after that to compete on the professinal rodeo circuit. At the end of the year, he was in negotiations to return to the NWA as part of the four horsemen.

STEVE REGAL (Steven Regal) - Steve worked the entire year on the independent circuit, wrestling mainly for the Windy City promotion out of Chicago. During the early spring, he worked a few NWA cards as the opening or second bout vs old friend Spike Huber. While in Windy City, he was the babyface champion, usually working against whoever was brought in by the promotion. In late October, he turned heel with no angle; he just started wrestling babyface opponents. He was named booker of the promotion after the departure of Paul Dangerously. He also worked the Munchnick Brody memorial card in St Louis in November.

DUSTIN RHODES (Dustin Runnels) - Dustin is the real life son of Dusty Rhodes. He spent most of the year in training under the guidance of Skandor Akbar. He debuted in September for Florida Championshipp Wrestling (making him eligible for 1989 rookie of the year) working the middle of the card as a babyface. In December, he was brought in to the NWA by his father as part of the Texas Broncos tag team with partner Kendall Windham.

DUSTY RHODES (Virgil Runnels) - Perhaps there was no other man in professional wrestling who had as much criticism leveled at him during the year as did Dusty. As the booker for the NWA, his angles constantly revolved around himself and/or his friends. He made it point to reward those who kissed up to him with little regard to logic or profit. He began the year by winning the bunkhouse stampede finals on PPV on 1/24. He had won entry into the event with a wild card berth on 1/1 at the Omni. February had him in a feud with Larry Zbyszko over Dusty's US championship. Larry and valet Baby Doll tried to blackmail him, but his lack of interest in the accusations spilled over tot he fans and the angle was quickly forgotten. March had him saving Magnum TA from an attack by Tully Blanchard and J J Dillon in which he accidentally hit NWA president Jim Crocket with a baseball bat. He was suspended from the NWA indefinitely, but returned as the Midnight Rider. He had been originally set to team with Nikita at the Crocket Cup, but his suspension negated that and he wrestled under the mask against J. J. Dillon in a bullrope match. This angle was quickly going nowhere, especially after he saved Lex Luger when Barry Windham turned on Lex. Dusty assumed the feud with Barry in typical Dusty fashion. When it was realized that the angle with the Midnight Rider was doomed, the NWA reinstated Dusty, but not before his US title had been stripped from him. He feuded with the Horsemen

and Barry in particular over the summer months. He got involved in a feud with Kevin Sullivan and Al Perez along about September with a series of dog collar matches but that too fizzled before it really got started. In October, he feuded with the Road Warriors after they turned heel on Sting (another case of him getting involved when he wasn't in the angle to begin with). In December, he lost a match to Road Warrior Animal that would have let the winner choose his partners for the six man championships that were in disarray with the split up. He was also replaced as booker in December and had a problem showing up for scheduled appearances both before and after that. He was probably history with the NWA by the first week of 1989.

RICKY RICE (Richard Rice) - Rick spent his first real full year working a variety of roles. He started off the year in Minnesota independents and worked with regular partner Derrick Dukes in Jeff Siegel's corporate show in Chicago. He went to work for the AWA on a part time basis doing jobs. He was in the ring when Adrian Adonis broke his ankle by stepping in the hole in the ring. He toured Europe with an independent group in April and returned to the independent circuit on his return. In July, he was called to the AWA where he formed a tag team with Jon Paul called the Top Guns. He became known, both good and bad, for his dropkicks. The kicks were thrwon high and vertical, however, due to his inexperience, he tended to Potato opponents more times than not. He worked an irregular schedule with the AWA, spending time with the independents as well through the rest of the year. The top Guns started a feud with Bad Company which resulted in a match with the AWA champs at Superclash III. Derick Dukes rejoined Ricky at that show when Jon paul left wrestling.

TOMMY RICH (Thomas Richardson) - 1988 was an active year for Rich. January had him working in Southern Championship involved in a feud with Dick Slater. He also appeared for Central States in the tournament to crown a WWA champ. He worked for Memphis on a limited basis in february, feuding with Lawler for a two week period. Although still a heel in Memphis, he did semi babyface interviews. Back in SCW, he resumed his babyface role feuding with Paul E dangerously and Dick Slater. He took a tour of Japan in April and returned to take his feud with Slater on the independent circuit. He worked for a while in May for the USA promotion out of Knoxville teaming with cousins Davey and Johnny Rich in bouts against the RPM's. In June, he was back with SCW working against Eddie Gilbert and Slater and was part of the live WATL show where Eddie turned babyface. He left the USA promotion for good in July and carried the feud they had going there back to SCW along with his cousins and the RPM's and Bill Dundee. August saw him finally turn heel in the south assuming a biker role and taking on a manager named Mr. Donnie. He returned to Memphis in the same role and feuded there with Jimmy Valiant. In November, he went to All Japan to take part in the annual tag team tournament. His partner was Dick Slater. He returned to the states to the southern independent network.

ROAD WARRIORS: Hawk (Michael Hedgstrand) & Animal (Joe Laurendias) - The year started with the Roadies involved already with a feud with the Powers of Pain. The feud intensified when they staged a bench press contest in which the powers attacked the Warriors during the lift. Animal suffered a detached retina during the fracas which had him out of action for a short period. They lost the six man tag team championships to the POwers and Ivan Koloff in February. The feud continued through the early summer. At the Crockett Cup, the Warriors were seeded number three. In May, they did another angle with the powers where Hawk got his back hurt with a steel chair and he had to be stretchered out. A tour of Japan about this time saw them lose their international titles. They returned to the States to win back the six man titles with Dusty Rhodes as their partner. They were a part of the triple tower of doom match in the PPV from Baltimore. The feud with the power came to an abrupt end when the Powers jumped to the WWF. Ivan Koloff and a masked Russian Assassin (Dave Sheldon) were inserted into the feud and into scaffold matches against the Legion of Doom. They did another tour of All Japan in the fall and returned to turn heel against Sting during a defense of the six man titles. A couple of weeks later, they won the NWA tag belts from the midnight Express. At Starrcade, they lost via DQ to Sting and Dusty.

BUDDY ROBERTS (Dale Hey) - Buddy had reformed the Freebirds in texas with new partners Angel of Death and Iceman King Parsons where they collectively feuded with the Von Erichs. Buddy was responsible for the melee at the concert that Michael Hayes put on prior to the Parade of champions which led to a feud with his former freebird brother. From April on, he did little wrestling himself, resigning himself to being the manager of the Samoan Swat Team which took over a feud with Hayes and Steve Cox.

JAKE ROBERTS (Aurelian Smith Jr.) - Jake got a little national publicity early this year by appearing on the cover of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine in January. He was aorking against Rick Rude in arena shows although no official feud had been set up yet. He began the feud with the TV taping prior to Wrestlemania (even though it didn't air until after) when his wife refused to be the woman chosen for the Rude awakening. At Wrestlemania, Roberts wrestled Rude to a twenty minute draw in the first round of the tournament. The feud

took off red hot over the next few months and lasted almost until the end of the year. Jake then became involved in a feud with Andre the Giant in November as a result of a Saturday Night's Main Event where he made a save, scaring Andre into a simulated hear attack with the snake. Their feud was just getting under way at the end of the year with the predictable snake DQ ending making the rounds.

ROCKIN' ROBIN (Robin Smith) - Robin is the real life sister of Jake the Snake Roberts and Sam Houston. She entered the WWF in march to feud with women's champion Sherri Martel. She did jobs for Sherri around the country with each match seeming to be an improvement over the last. In october, she captured the ladies title from Sherri while touring Paris. She returned to defend against Sherri and Judy Martin in matches till the end of the year.

ROCK AND ROLL EXPRESS: Ricky Morton (Richard Morton) & Robert Gibson (Ruben Kane) - The Express resembled the walking wounded as the year began. gibson was nursing a bad back while Ricky was out with a knee injury. In the NWA, they feuded with the Sheepherders, but were fired just prior to the PPV in January. They were asked to do a job in a tag match in Cincinnati and they did...in 15 seconds. They were fired when they returned to the dressing room. They went to Memphis where they worked as babyfaces opposite the Midnight Rocker's heel roles. Morton split with the team to work in Southern Championship in Georgia for a while in February. They left the Memphis promotion towards the end of February where they surfaced in Puerto Rico. They did spot shows together in SCW and World Organization Wrestling in Florida. Robert went to work in the AWa for a short time in March and as a team they toured All Japan for two weeks during may. They returned from Japan to work a couple of dates in Puerto Rico before rejoining the NWA where they resumed a feud with the Sheepherders. These matches took place during the Bash tour but Gibson left the team in early August after gettin his first pay check. Morton remained with the NWA for a while and teamed with Nikita Koloff during his stay. In September, Ricky beat Ivan Koloff in a Russian chain match during Clash III, and then left the area to rejoin Gibson in the AWA. They toured Japan for a second time during the year in the month of October. November had Gibson team with Greg Gagne and defeat Badd Company for the AWA tag titles before the result was overturned when Badd Company decided to stay with the AWA. At Superclash III, the wrestled in the final match, going to a DQ with Robert Fuller and Jimmy Golden.

ROCKERS: Marty janetty (marty Janetty) & Shawn Michaels (Shawn Hickenbottom) - They split their time in early 1988 between the AWA and Memphis. They worked the AWA as babyfaces while heels in the CWA. In a funny incident, Shawn became obnoxious in the dressing room in nashville at an arena show and Bill Dundee locked him outside in his wrestling gear in six degree weather. They feuded with the Original Midnight Express over the AWA titles which they won in an office change when the Midnights walked out of the promotion. Febraury had them working Memphis for the most part as heels and feuding with the Rock and Roll Express. after the Express left the area, the feud ws turned over to Jeff Jarrett and Billy Travis. In march, they lost the AWA belts to Badd Company. They were fired from the AWA in may, but somehow managed to get their hands on the belts and they lost an unauthorized match to tne Nasty Boys on an independent card in Pennsylvania. This drew the ire of the AWA officials who couldn't find the belts. The were picked up by the WWF and got over pretty well even though they are small. They worked the undercard up until October when a feud was set up for them with the Brainbusters. They wound up on the losing end of this feud or going to double DQ finishes around the country.

PAUL ROMA (paul Roma) - Paul worked for the most part with partner Jim Powers as part of the Young Stallions. They formed a mid level babyface team winning at the beginning of the year but being designated jobbers by year's end. Theytoured with Titan in Europe during the month of April.

BUDDY ROSE (paul Perschmann) - Buddy worked the independent circuit up until May when he went to work for Don owen in the Pacific Northwest. There he feuded with the Assassin winning a loser leave town match with him. He teamed with Col DeBeers during the month of july and then became part of the Beach Boys wth fellow superheavyweight Paul Avalanche Neu. Together they won the tag titles form the Southern Rockers before losing them back shortly thereafter. He worked under a mask as Top Gun in opposition to the real Top Gun. Rose claimed that this top Gun was the Assassin who he had run out of town. This feud continued at one level or another when it culminated in december when Rose lost a hair vs mask match to Gun.

RANDY ROSE (Randy Alls) - see ORIGINAL MIDNIGHT EXPRESS.

MIKE ROTUNDO (Lawrence Michael Rotunda) - With no real angle for a a turn, Rotundo just began wrestling heel style in the beginning of the year, wearing short hair and a singlet with Syracuse emblazened across the front. He became the first member of the Varsity Club. He defeated Nkikita Koloff for the TV title and held on to the title clear through Starrcade. He entered into the feud that Sullivan had going with Jim Garvin and wrestled Jim in an amateur rules match in the opening match of Clash of Champions I. He teamed with Rick Steiner

at the Crockett Cup and won their first round match before losing in the second round. The feud with the Garvins continued and he was part of the heel team in the Triple tower of Doom at the Baltimore PPV Bash. As fall rolled around, Mike began bickering with partner Steiner in what would ultimately turn Steiner to babyface. He lost the TV title to Steiner at Starrcade.

ROUGEAU BROTHERS: Jacques (Jacques) & Raymond (Raymond) - It didn't start off to be a good year for the Rougeaus. January saw them doing jobs for both Demolition and fellow jobber tag team the Bolsheviks. Fans across the country began booing them even in these matches against established heel teams. This lead to Vince McMahon's "go with the flow" theory and he started to turn them heel. After the Wrestlemania break, they were paired up in matches against another babyface team, the Killer Bees. This type of match with the Rougeaus playing very subtle heels, went on for a couple of months before the Rougeaus began doing very cocky interviews. By June, they were slaughtering American landmarks (the "Lincoln Monument" and the "Washinton Memorial") and making sure they were known as the "FABULOUS" Rougeaus. In July, they had completed the full heel turn by attacking the British Bulldogs on a MSG card that was shown naitonwide on USA. In August they began feuding with the Hart Foundation and had picked up Jimmy Hart as their new manager. At Summer Slam, they wrestled the British Bulldogs in what may have led to a behind the scenes feud with the dogs. There were at least three dressing room altercations between the two teams with legit punches being thrown on all occasions. Entered in the tag team survivors' match, creative booking on the part of mcmahon kept the two teams separated both during and after the match. As the year came to a close, the Rougeau had finally announced that they had relocated to the United States, choosing Memphis as their new home.

RPM'S: Mike Davis (Michael Davis) & Tommy Lane (Thomas Lane) - the original rock and roll tag team began things in Memphis, but the stay was short as they were in the process of losing loser leave town matches there. They headed for the new USA promotion (or at this time, CWF), but came back to Memphis under hoods as the Doctors of Rock. This was short lived as well as they went to the CWF as the RPM's in February. There, they were billed as the USA tag team champs and they feuded with Johnny and Davey Rich. When the CWF officially split into two groups, the RPM's headed north to Knoxville where they formed a tag team with Bill Dundee to continue the feud with the Riches. This feud was carried to SCW in Georgia during July when USA wasn't running a full schedule. They returned to Memphis when the uSA group folded and won the Southern tag belts from Billy Travis and Scott Steiner. This was one of the famous Memphis title changes that takes place in every city on the tour during that week. They remained with Memphis through the end of the year in a mid level role, but continuing to hold the titles for the most part. They teamed with Cactus Jack Foley at Superclash to lose to the Guererro brothers.

RUSSIAN ASSASSINS: #1 (David Sheldon) & #2 (Jack Victory-Ken Rinehurst)- see Individuals ANGEL OF DEATH & JACK VICTORY.

TITO SANTANA (Merced Solis) - Tito wrestled in a limited role this year, beginning as part of Strike Force and holding the WWF tag titles. They were involved in a feud with the Hart Foundation over the belts at the time which carried on until early March. From there, they defended the tag titles on arena shows against Demolition and came away with clean victories, indicating a title change was at hand. The title did change at Wrestlemania and Tito worked with partner Rick Martel in a series of rematches after the Wrestlemania break. Tito was left by himself when Rick decided to spend some time away from wrestling and was given credit for bringing the Powers of Pain into the WWF to feud with Demolition in July. Tito didn't wrestle a whole lot after that, preferring to travel with the group as an agent and spanish broadcaster, filling in in case of no shows. He started working again semi regularly as the year came to a close.

COCO SAMOA (John Reiher) - Coco was a babyface for the owen promotion as the year started in the role of a mid level baby. He teamed off and on with Al Madril who turned on him in late March to start a feud. The feud never got a chance to go anywhere as Coco left Owen for he OWF in April. He worked there both as a wrestler and as a referee and in June he turned on Mike Miller to become a heel. He teamed often with Tiger Chung Lee in July before the promotion folded. We lost track of him until November when he popped up with Mel Saracino's group in Oregon where he continued to work as a heel and feud with mike Miler.

SAMOAN SWAT TEAM: Samula (Sam Anoia) & Fatu (Solofa Fatu) - Buddy Roberts formed this team in June in the World Class area as a team to take on Michael Hayes and partner Steve Cox. They quickly became known as one of the better working tag teams in the business as the traded the World Class tag belts back and forth with Hayes and Cox. They won the belts back from Hayes and Cox for a final time at Superclash III in Chicago.

RANDY SAVAGE (Randy Poffo) - In a carryover feud from 1987, Randy was deep into his feud with Honky Tonk man as 1988 rolled around. He teamed with Strike Force against the Hart Foundation and honky in a series of cage matches around the country in which Savage was always left in the ring with HTM at the end. He always won by climbing¶

over the top and out. On the February live NBC show, he was schedule to win back the Intercontinental title from HTM, but the day of the show, HTM refused to do the job on national TV. This decision ultimately led to Savage being picked as the new WWF champ to replace Hogan. In the tournament at Wrestlemania, he had been scheduled to lose to Ted DiBiase, but the response Ted got in his week as champion was not what they wanted and so it was decided that Savage would be the interim champion. At Wrestlemania he beat Butch Reed by pinfall in the first round, Valentine by pinfall in the second, One Man Gang by DQ in the third and with Hogan's help, he downed Ted DiBiase in the final. The next few months saw a feud with DiBiase over the belt. He was attacked by DiBiase and Andre during an interview slot on the syndicated show which led to the teaming of the Mega Powers at Summerslam where he and Hogan defeated Dibiase and Andre. The fall had Savage in a feud with Andre the Giant over the belt. savage was on the tour of Europe during October. At the Survivor Series in November, the first real problems between him and Hogan developed as Hogan eliminated hm and Bad News Brown at the same time from the match. Savage stormed back in the ring and pointed afinger at Hogan's face before Elizabeth intervened. During the last two months of the year, Savage was busy with Bad News Brown as Bad News had insinuated that Liz and Jack Tunney were having an affair. Subtle hints along the way also indicated that Savage will be the heel in his feud with Hogan which is scheduled to start at Wrestlemana V.

SHEEPHERDERS: Luke Williams (Ted Williams) & Butch Miller (Robert miller) - Their role during the year was basically as the looney-tunes foreigners and that's exactly how they came off. They began 1988 in a feud with the Rock and Roll Express, but that was quickly changed when the R&R were fired in January. On the PPV show in Janaury, they wrestled Sting and Jim Garvin. February saw them feud with the Lightening Express and win in most cases. In one match, they cut the hair of Tim Horner but that never went any further. In April, their flag bearer, Johnny Ace turned babyface against them and they brought in their "cousin" Rip Morgan as their new flag bearer. June had them losing tot he fantastics and beginning the long lost feud with the Rock and Roll Express when they returned to the NWA. The Sheepherders then began feuding with the Fantastics, an old UWF feud, when the Bash tour was complete and the R&R had left again. They did a one shot in Puerto Rico for Colon during September. In Novemeber, they left the NWA to join the WWF as the Bushwhackers. They had been promised the US titles in a tournament in the NWA but the monetary offer from Titan was too good to turn down. They were introduced as complete opposites of any role they had previously played as they came into the WWF as USA loving babyfaces. They were introduced to WWF fans by way of short video clips with them doing strange and silly things.

MAKHAN SINGH (Michael Shaw) - One of the best of the super heavyweights, Makhan Singh began the year embroiled in a feud with Owen Hart over the North American Title. Singh won the title from Hart on 5/6 ending Harts one year plus reign. He did colour commentary on the Stampede TV show with announcer Ed Whalen and received nice reviews. In June, he helped Johnny Smith win the Commonwealth mid heavyweight crown from Chris Benoit. In July, he teamed regularly with Steve DiSalvo in a feud with Kerry Prown and Steve Blackman. DiSalvo turned babyface on hm and he feuded with him through September. He attacked announcer Ed Whalen at one point inthe fall which resulted in a suspension so he could tour South Africa and Europe as Klondike Mike Shaw. He returned to Calagary in November and lost the North American title to Don Muraco on 12/9.

RON SIMMONS (Ronald Simmons) - Ron had no set role in the early part of the year, working January and February as a tweener in the prelims. This role continued sporadically through the spring when they finally established him as a babyface with a campaign with "Just Say NO." In March, Kevin Sullivan was coming to the ring to watch him work and perhaps recruit him for the Varsity Club, but that skit only lasted a few weeks before it was dropped. He continued to work in the prelim matches through most of the rest of the year, hitting the anti drug campaign hard in the Fall. He teamed with Eddie Gilbert in the tournament to determine new US champions and they made it to the finals against the Fantastics who they lost to. Simmons' ring work made noticible improvement in the past year, but he still was relegated to prelim bouts after the push with Gilbert.

DICK SLATER (Van Richard Slater) - Slater had a busy year, tourning the independent promotions to earn a living. He began with the Southern Championship promotion as a heel feuding with both Tommy Rich and Bruiser Brody. He was also entered in the Central States WWA tournament and lost to Mike George in the final round. The spring months saw his feud with Brody continue with him working for other independents as the spring went on. He teamed with Bob Orton in SCW in April and continued to feud with Tommy Rich. In June he worked for a short period for the CWF, teaming with Eddie gilbert as heels against Austin Idol and Jerry Stubbs. He was a part of the WATL live show in which he turned on Gilbert and helped beat him up. He quit SCW in July and began working for Puerto Rico where he split his time between there and Florida Champ pionship Wrestling. He feuded with Dan Spivey as a babyface in Florida and won a loser leave town match from Spivey along with the Florida

title. In October, he turned heel in FCW and lost the title a short time later to U. S. Steele. He worked for All Japan in the annual tag team tournament teaming with nemesis Tommy Rich over there. He also worked the Hawaian independent card in November on his way back to the states. He continued to work the independent cards on his return.

SERGEANT SLAUGHTER (Robert Remus) - The sarge commanded a hefty price tag this year to work the independent circuit. He had lost his contract with Hasbro toys and raised his price at the same time. He worked mainly in the Northeast, hwever did work some cards throughout the midwest during the summer months as well. He did an AWA TV taping in September which saw them start a feud with Colonel DeBeers, but due to his inactivity in the AWA, the feud had to wait until December before it went much further. He wrestled Debeers at Superclash, but the match ended when Sheik Adnon El Kaissey and the Iron Sheik did a run in. Slaughter's value and gimmick are both severely limited now as he is pretty well set into a rut of having to wrestle foreign wrestlers to defend the honor of the USA,

SLICK (Ken Johnson) - Slick managed all year in the WWF handling the contracts of Butch Reed, One Man Gang (who he later converted to a black Akeem) and Big Bossman.

DOUG SOMMERS (Soug Somerson) - Sommers worked almost the entire year in the south, working for the independent promotions in the Geroia area. He started with SCW where he worked as himself and under a mask as the Terrorist, a jobber in the area. In March he went to work for a few dates in Deep South. He worked with Buddy Rose in Windy City in April before returning to SCW where he formed a team with Randy Rose. August had him teaming regularly with Joel deaton who he won the tag titles of the area with. The rest of the year feautred just part time work for various independents.¶

SOUTHERN ROCKERS: Scott Peterson (Scott Peterson) & Steve Doll (Steve Dahl) - 1988 was a series of title changes for the Rockers in the Pacific Northwest. They began with the belts and feuding with Avalanche and Joey jackson then with Av and Mike Golden. They lost the belts to the later in late March when Peterson had to wrestle by himself against the two when Doll didn't show up. Doll showed up late in the match and was beat up already, claiming that someone had attacked him on the highway. They won the belts back to start off May, then lost the belts to Grappler and Terminator On 7/2. The belts were held up on a rematch on 7/9 and they won them back officially on 7/22. On 8/5, in singles action, Scott won the Northwest title from Grappler and held it a short time. They lost the tag belts to the Beach Boys in early September but the resulting feud ha dthe belts back around the Rockers' waists by the end of the month. the finally dropped the title to Grappler and Abuddah Dein in the fall and feuded with them in an attempt to regain them.

DAN SPIVEY (Danield Spivey) - Danny started off the year working for the WWF on the C team, filling in in case of no shows during a brutal winter filled with cancellations. He went to work from there to Puerto Rico and Florida in April before taking a tour of ALl Japan from 5/14-6-10. He returned from the tour to go back to work for Puerto Rico as a heel. He was to have been Bruiser Brody's opponent on he night Brody was murdered. he left there to work for Florida Championship Wrestling where he worked as a heel and feuded with Dick Slater. In September, he lost a loser leave town match to Slater and headed back to Puerto Rico after things had quieted down. He toured again with ALl Japn for almost the entire month of October and again for the annual tag team tournament where he teamed with Johnny Ace. He worked the Hawaian independent on the way back to Puerto Rico where he stayed until the end of the year.

RICKY STEAMBOAT (Richard Blood) - Ricky began the year working arena shows against Ted DiBiase. At the royal rumble he carried Rick Rude to a very good match. The following TV tapes had a feud between the two begin. It was short lived as Steamboat took some time off to be with his wife at the birth of thier first child in February. In the Wrestlemania tournament, he lost i the first round by pinfall to Greg Valentine. He was announced after Wrestlemania for tag matches with Don Muraco vs the Islanders in a series of matches to claim the bragging rights for the South Seas, but the matches never really got off the ground as Steamboat's contract had run out and he elected not to renew it. The NWA began some serious negotiations with Steamboat toward the end of the year with nothing finalized by the time December 31st had rolled around.

GEORGE STEELE (James Myers) - George was in poor health through most of the year and although announced for a good deal of card, he never really wrestled. In January, he was in a series of battle royals where he never even got in the ring, but rather just roamed around outside while the rest of the participants did the match. Midway thorugh, he would just saunder back to the dressing room. April had in in a series against Jim Neidhart where George lost every night by COR. He received a mid sized push in the summer months as Titan attempted to push a new doll called "Mine." George supposedly had surgery during the late summer and did not work agan.

RICK STEINER (Robert Rexsteiner) - Rick went form semi intelligent to the role of a complete moron in the space of just a few months. He was with the Varsity Club at

the beginning of the year and was given the Florida title by Mike Rotundo in February when Mike won the TV championship. That belt was all but forgotten until alte in the year when it was brought up for a while then dropped again. The problems with Rotundo and Sullivan started early with both of them treating Rick like a child. He wrestled mainly against Steve Williams during the Bash tour and the bickering with Rotundo intensified after the Bashes. He was loaned out to the Midnight Express for a while during August. He was basically a babyface from that point on, doing things to intentionally frustrate Sullivan and Rotundo like leading the crowd in chants of "Syracuse Sucks!" He turned complete babyface in late October when attacked by Rotundo, SDullivan and new member of the Club Steve Williams. He feuded with Rotundo over the TV title till the end of the year. He began drawing a face on his hand and calling it Alex. he brought a dog to ringside on TV and left him with announcers. He finally captured the TV title from Rotundo at Starrcade.

SCOTT STEINER (Scott Rexsteiner) - For the first three months of 1988, Scott worked for Bruiser's independent promotion in the Midwest. He went from there to the CWA where he received a good push from the beginning. He teamed regularly with Billy Travis and together they won the CWA tag belts in June. Scott was also the winner of the $250,000 Renegade's Rampage which wound up in June. In August, he feuded with Phil Hickerson over the CWA itle but failed in his attempt to win the belt. Travis and Steiner lost the tag titles to the RPM's in late august and the push seemed to diminish from there. He stayed with the CWA through the end of the year as a mid level to lower level babyface.

STING (Steve Borden) - Sting may have been the most misused man in wrestling this year. He was red hot as a babyface, yet received a lukewarm push. he started as a babyface teaming with Jim Garvin vs the Sheepherders on the January PPV. He began the feud with Flair in February after an altercation with J J Dillon when Flair was voted Wrestler of the Year by the fans (in a vote that took all of three hours and another example of the nWA's theory of planning ahead). He went to a 45 minute draw with Flair at Clash I in Wrestling Forum's match of the Year. He teamed with Lex Luger to win the Crockett Cup and despite his being the hottest babyface in the promotin, was demoted to the undercard in a variety of matches against various opponents. He teamed with Nikita to wrestle Tully and Arn at the Baltimore PPV. A major push began as he mounted a challenge to Barry Windham's US title. They met on Clash of Champions III, but Sting failed to win the title. In October, he teamed with the Road Warriors in a defense of the six man titles and they turned on him when he tried to help. He wore a neck brace for a while as he reformed the team with Luger to feud with the Warriors. He teamed with Dusty at Starrcade to wrestle the warriors and they won via DQ.

STRIKE FORCE: Tito Santana (merced Solis) & Rick Martel (Richard Vignault) - For more information, see individual wrestlers...they began the year as tag team champs in the WWf feuding wth the Hart Foundation. They teamed with Randy Savage in February to go against the Harts and Honky Tonk man in a series of cage matches. They began getting clean pinfall wins over Demolition prior to Wrestlemania. At a TV taping in Springfield IL, a week prior to Wrestlemania (which would be shown <u>after</u> Wrestlemania), they came to the ring with their tag belts in tact. Before the introductions, however, slick came out of the dressing room and distracted them. They chased him back to the dressing room and reappeared after without the belts. At that point the TV cameras started rolling. This allowed myself and others to be fooled intot thinking a title change wasn't coming. It did, at WM-IV and they spent the next few months feuding with Demolition until June when Demo destroyed Martel with an outside of the ring elbow drop that allowed Rick to go home to his wife. The team disbanded after that.

KEVIN SULLIVAN (Kevnin Sullivan) - Kevin managed to keep out of the ring more this year which made his improvement noticible. He called himself the Gamesmaster from the start of the year, managing the Varsity Club. Directing the Club, they began a feud with Jim Garvin and Precious with Sullivan calling her by her real name. He insinuated that they had been married at one time which of course waas not true. He kidnapped Precious in May, but what happened while he had her (a total of about ten minutes) was never explained. He had some sort of paper which he gave to Jim Ross during a TBS interview, but Jim must have lost it because we never heard from it again. He came up with the idea for the triple tower of Doom and that match took place during the Baltimore PPV Bash. He was the last man left in the cage with Jim Garvin and Jim managed to escape. Precious held the key and was in the bottom cage and Sullivan locked himself and her in the cage after the match. Jim and Road Warrior hawk mad ethe save. In September, he broke Jim's leg with concrete blocks during a TBS show. With Garvin out of the NWA, he feuded for a brief time with Eddie gilbert before they started concentrating on the Steiner angle. He teamed wth Steve Williams at Starrcade and beat the Fantastics for the US titles.

JOHN TATUM (john Frankel) - Tatum was teamed with UWF partner Jack Victory in World Class at the beginning of the year where they won the Texas tag titles. They feuded with the Fantastics and more often, the Simpson brothers. This feud continued

hot and heavy for the first four months with them trading the titles back and forth several times. Tatum was one of the winners in World Class' version of the Tower of Doom. He split with Victory when Jack headed to the nWA and teamed with Jimmy jack Funk. He was used in more or less a minor role after the Jarrett takeover.

TERRY TAYLOR (Paul Terrence Taylor III) - After leaving the NWA, he showed up in Memphis at the start of 1988 as a heel. He did a run in and knocked out both Lawler and Dundee during one of their matches. His stay in Memphis was brief as he headed for World Class. He played the role of a tweener at first, winning the Texas title from Matt Borne on 2/26. He resumed a feud with Chris Adams that had begun in the old UWF. He was blamed for Mike George's potatoing of Adams in Central States. In June, Taylor began a feud with Kevin Von Erich and he also received a few title shots against Jerry Lawler for the AWA belt. He left the World Class area at the end of June and began working for the Titan C team. On his TV debut, he worked as Sam Houston's partner and turned against him. In September he became part of bobby Heenan's stable. he was portrayed as being of limited everything and Heenan was his teacher. Heenan gave him the name of the Red Rooster because of his cockiness. he continued in that role till the end of the year. In December they shot the angle for Saturday Night's Main Event where Taylor turned babyface on Heenan but it didn't air until after the new year.

TERMINATORS: Rigs (Dan Rignoti) & Wolfe (Doug Fisher) - Doing basically the Road Warriors' gimmick, they worked mainly the independent circuit during the year while looking for work in major promotions. They worked on Jeff Siegel's corporate show in Chicago in January and for Sam DiCero's Windy City promotion which was just starting to run in bars in the area. In March they tried out in Calgary but were not offered jobs. They took a tour of Europe in April with Rob Russen and an independent group. The worked regularly for Minnesota independents and Windy City where they won the tag team belts in June. In August, they turned babyface and lost the belts to the Original Midnight Express. They won the belts back in October when the Express left for the NWA. They worked the rest of the year in Minnesta, continuing on the independent circuit.

ULTIMATE WARRIOR (James Helwig) - Ulti mate got over with the fans more this year than probably any other wrestler. He began the year in a feud with Hercules that continued on through Wrestlemania. He beat Herc on the big card. In April he toured Europe and was in what could have been the worst match in the history of the world facing Andre the Giant. He feuded with Bobby Heenan going into the summer, wrestling him then stuffing hm into a weasel suit. in August, he began to feud with Honky Tonk Man and he won the belt from him at Summer Slam. This series of matches continued with Warrior coming out on top in them. Warrior won his match at the Survivor Series.

GREG VALENTINE (James Wisiski Jr.) - Valentine and Brutus Beefcake were just winding up a feud when 1988 started. This feud continued on through Wrestlemania. Greg was entered into the tournament and beat Ricky Steamboat via pinfall during the first round, but lost to Savage in the second. He toured with Titan in Europe in April and returned with a new gimmick. He began using a shin splint on his leg, thus reenforcing the figure four once it was applied. He attacked Billy Superstar Graham in June and retired him to the announcer booth (something Greg should never be forgiven for) and began feuding with Muraco. The feud lasted as long as Muraco did which was mid October. Valentine toured Europe again in October and returned to form a tag team with stablemate Honky Tonk Man under the guidance of Jimmy Hart.

JIMMY VALIANT (James Valen) - The Boogie Woogie Man was in the NWA at the beginning of the year and as a matter of fact, stayed there through the first six months of the year. He was used sparingly in the prelims and was sentenced to team with Mighty Wilbur at the Crocket Cup. In July, he entered the CWA and almost immediately lost his trademark beard to Downtown Bruno and Sylvia. In September he worked a few shows for the AWA along with Memphis and even appeared for Carlos Colon in Puerto Rico. October had him in a match at the Cotton Bowl in World Class. He returned to Memphis more or less full time to feud with Tommy Rich. In November he was featured in AWA shows on their east coast swing and he worked the Superclash show in December in an unannounced 58 second squash. In his time away from the ring he helped his wife Felicia run her flower shop in North Carolina.

VARSITY CLUB: Mike Rotundo (Lawrence Michael Rotunda), Rick Steiner (Robert Rexsteiner) & Steve Williams (Steve Williams) - see individuals for group activities.

JACK VICTORY (Ken Rinehurst) - Jack and John Tatum were reunited in their old UWF team as the year began in World Class. They won the Texas tag belts and were feuding with the Fantastics and more so the Simpson Brothers. The feud lasted several months with the titles going back and forth a couple of times with the Simpsons. He worked singles matches towards the end of the summer and left in September to become Russian Assassin #2 in the NWA. There he helped #1 and Paul Jones in their feud with Ivan koloff and his series of partners. They won

their match against Ivan and Junk Yard Dog at Starrcade.

VIRGIL (Michael Jones) - Virgil spent the entire year as the male bodyguard/ valet of Ted DiBiase. He did all of DiBiase's dirty work including jobs for Hercules in the fall when Hercules turned on Ted when Ted bought his contract. A few times during the year it looked like Virgil may have been turning baby-face against DiBiase but nothing more ever came of the hints.

NICOLAI VOLKOFF (Josip Peruziak) - see BOLSHEVIKS.

KERRY VON ERICH (Kerry Adkisson) - Kerry was involved in a feud with the Freebirds in retaliation for their attack and the 'almost" heart attack of his father Fritz on Christmas 1987. He took time to win the World Class version of the world belt from Al Perez on 3/6 but held it less than a month. He lost the title to Iceman Parson in a strange match that saw the lights go out in the arena and Iceman on top of Kerry for the pin when they came back on. Michael Hayes had been in Kerry's corner during the match and Terry Gordy had been in Iceman's. He regained the title from Ice on 5/8 and began a series of unification matches with Jerry Lawler a month later. He ventured to Memphis and played a subtle heel while playing full babyface when in Texas. These matches continued with both men winning each others titles with controversial endings. The ultimate match was scheduled at Superclash III in December. In November, Kerry rocked the wrestling fandom while in a match with Colonel DeBeers during a tV taping in Las Vegas. He had his boot pulled off of his bad foot to reveal no foot at all. It was learned that after his motorcycle accident a year or so ago that the foot had been amputated and this had been kept a secret all this time. He went after thsi incident to New Japan and returned just prior to Superclash. The iLlinois State Athleic Commission had reservations about letting him compete under a complaint from Titan sports, but after a hearing on the matter he was allowed to wrestle despite a rule in Illinois saying that a wrestler or boxer must have all his limbs. He lost the unification match to Lawler when the bout was stopped onaccount of blood. Kerry was drenched, but had Lawler down with a claw when the referee stopped the bout.

KEVIN VON ERICH (Kevin Adkisson) - Kevin's year started with a feud with the Von Erichs over them beating up his father on Christmas day 1987. This feud lasted most of the spring wth Kevin teaming with Michael Hayes and Bruiser Brody during parts of it. He began a feud with Terry Taylor in June. He did a job for Jessica McClure also that month (Jessica was the baby who was trapped inthe well last year...she kissed him and he fell on the mat and let her pin him). He made a habit of no showing during the late summer and no showed a title defense against Iceman Parsons. Kerry then defended the Texas title for him and lost the belt to iceman. In september, Kevin was hospitalized for migrain headaches and a CAT scan revealed a legit concussion. He began feuding with Kendo Nagaski and the Black ninja a month later, though he did limit his wrestling. He went to New Japan in November and returned to the US, but did not work a regular schedule. Doctors had told him that if he took too many blows to the head that it would eventually kill him. There was never any kind of official announcement of his retirement lending to speculation that he may return to the ring sometime.

BARON VON RASCHKE (james Rachke) - Baron came out of semi retirement in March to feud with Adanon Al-Kaissey. as luck would have it, kaaiseey left the AWA and baron was left to feud with Soldat Ustinov and Teijo Khan. He did an angle where they broke his claw hand to set up the feud. In August he surprised everyone by leaving the AWA but surprised them even more when he popped up in the WWF as the Baron, manager of the Powers of Pain. That job lasted only about a month before Raschke retired (again) from the business.

KOKO B. WARE (James Ware) - Koko worked early in the year doing jobs at arena shows for Dino Bravo. His push wth the song piledriver died after the song failed to make any of the top hit charts. He teamed with the British Bulldogs at Wrestle-mania to go against the Islanders and Bobby Heenan. He did the job for Heenanin the match. He went with Titan to tour Europe in April and returned to do jobs for Bobby Heenan across the country. Following that series of matches he was demoted even further to the C team, working the opening bouts. In October, he was "recalled" to the A & B teams, but in the role of jobber for Bad News Brown. He continued to work preliminaries through the end of the year.

WARLORD (Terry Supinski) - see POWERS OF PAIN.

KEN WAYNE (Ken Whitlock) - Ken started the year in the CWA in Memphis teaming with Scott Hall. There was no major push through February but in March, he received a few title shots against CWA champ Max Pain. That lasted only a couple of weeks before he was back to working the preliminaries again. He was given the US Jr. title in April, which is a CWF belt, even though he was still in the CWA. He teamed with jarrett then began to feud with him in a tweener role. Neither man was ever considered a face or a heel in this series. A month later, he returned to the CWF and teamed with former partner Danny Davis reforming the Nightmares tag team. They won a tournament

for the CWF tag belts, but it was against another babyface tag team and that eteam had been counted out of the ring. Davis didn't want to win that way, but Wayne insisted and a split between the two resulted when they lost the belts to the Drill instructor and Detroit Demolition. He then joined the Danergous Alliance. with Paul E and Eddie Gilbert as an associate. He feuded with Danny Davis in a series of matches that produced some great matches. He began teaming with Nightmare #3 (Doug Gilbert) who went on to become nightmare Freddie. The feud with Davis lasted through October with them exchanging the junior heavyweight title several times. He won a hair vs hair match on the Road to Birmingham card which pretty well brought the feud to an end. In November, he began teaming with prelim manager Alan Martin and he left the promotion in December.

STEVE WILLIAMS (Steven Williams) - Doc began the year in Japan. He was arrested at the airport in Detroit before departing for allegedly trying to smuggle several drugs including steroids, speed, and marijuana into the country in his luggage. He missed the Bunkhouse stampede finals due to his legal problems even though the story didn't surface until months later. He was in limbo as far as wrestling was concerned over the next couple of months, but finally returned to the NWA as a babyface in late March. He teamed with Jim Garvin to help him in his feud with the Varsity Club over the next few months and was on the babyface side in the Baltimore Bash Tower of Doom match. he continued to work as a babyface, giving some of the most incoherent interviews ever, over the next few fall months. He toured Japan again in October and returned to join the Varsity Club with no angle to set it up. He teamed with Sullivan at Starrcade to win the US titles fromthe Fantastics.

BARRY WINDHAM (Barry Windham) - Barry started 1988 as the Western States Heritage champion but lost the belt to Larry Zbyszko on the Bunkhouse Stampede Pay Per View show. He began teaming with Lex Luger in Febraury and together they were seeded number six in the Crockett Cup. In March, they defeated Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard for the NWA tag titles at Clash of Champions I. In a rematch before the Crockett Cup, Barry turned heel on Luger when Luger, injured outside the ring, was not in the corner to make the tag. They dropped the belts back to the horsemen that night. He appeared at the Crockett Cup with Ric Flair but did not actually compete in the tournament. He unmasked the midnight Rider in a dressing room brawl following his turn on Luger and a feud developed with Dusty Rhodes. In May, barry won a one night tournament for the vacant US title in a final match over Nikita Koloff. he and Dusty resumed the feud that they had started only Dusty was now without the hood. He teamed with other members of the horsemen during the bash shows in a feud against Dusty and his friends. He was not pushed hard as a champion after this, getting involved not really in feuds, but in just series of matches against various opponents over the next few months including Brad Armstrong and Sting. In November, he began his next feud with bam bam Bigelow. They wrestled at Starrcade and Windham won by count out.

KENDALL WINDHAM (kendall Windham) - Kendall was used primarily as a preliminary wrestler through the first eight months of 1988, sometimes on the winning end, sometime on the losing. He was magnum TA's first guest on "straight Talk" and talked about his being a babyface as compared to his brother's heel role. He left the NwA shortly after that and went to World Class where he received a mid level push. He stayed there until the Turner buyout when he returned to the NWA, teaming with Dustin Rhodes as the Texas Broncos. Their push didn't last long as they were doing jobs to the Commandoes by the end of the year. Kendall was scheduled to turn heel just after the start of the new year.¶

GARY YOUNG (Gary Young) - January was the debut of Gary Young in the CWA in Memphis. He was one of the first to be saved by Ernest Angel and formed the Choirboy tag team with Max Pain. Together they held the CWA tag titles in March before losing them in April. He then teamed with Doug Gilbert in a feud with Billy Travis and Jeff Jarrett. He was involved in an angle where he was adopted by Eddie Gilbert and Missy Hyatt and was assigned to "watch Missy's behind." In May, he teamedwith Don Bass to win the tag belts once again. He was entered in the finals of the Rengegade's Rampage in June, but failed to capture the prize. The tag titles were lost in July to Rick Steiner and Billy Travis before he began a singles feud with Tommy Gilbert. In late October, he teamed regularly with Cactus Jack Foley and they won the Tag belts then began feuding with former stablemates in Studd's Stable when they refused to give up the belts. They were the babyfaces in this feud but moved shortly to Jarrett owned World Class where they aligned themselves with General Akbar and feuded with Eric Embry. They lost the tag titles before departing Memphis.

LARRY ZBYSZKO (Lawrence Whistler) - Larry won the Western States Heritage title from barry Windham on the PPV show in January with the help of his valet Baby Doll. Together, they tried to blackmail Dusty Rhodes in an angle that was aborted soon after it began. In March, baby Doll was dumped from the promotion and he hooked up with Gary Hart and teamed with Hart protege Al Perez. They teamed together for the Crockett Cup but lost in the first round. During the Bash shows, he teamed regularly with Rip Morgan in a prelim tag team. The rest of the year was spent in a very

minor role with the NWA. He married Verne Gagne's daughter Kathy and were expecting their first child after the first of the year. It was rumored that he would go to the AWA because of this and take the title from Jerry Lawler, however, he seemed content to stay with the NWA in his role there. He was an emergency replacement standing by at Superclash II in case the Illinois State Athletic Commission decided not to let Kerry Von Erich wrestle. Larry did not appear on the show when the ISAC revised their rules.

TOM ZENK (Thomas Zenk) - Tom began the year in a hole, so to speak. A court ruling decreed that since he had broken hs contract with Titan Sports, he had to give a percentage of his wrestling earnings to Titan during the year. As a result, Tom was not anxious to climb in the ring. He did, however in the AWA, and got a minor push. He wrestled Billy Robinson to a draw on the 2/4 Farewell to the Mineapolis Auditorium card. He left the AWA in February when a dispute about payments came up. He worked mainly for the independents in Minnesota, staying close o home. He toured Europe from 4/12 through 5/5 with the independent group that Rob Russen put together. He returned to work a few dates for the Pacific Northwest, mainly as a favor to Don Owen who was getting competition from Billy Jack Haynes. He returned home to Minnesota until late August and early September when he worked a tour for All Japan. He returned to Minnesota and remained there through the rest of the year.

BORIS ZHUKOV (James Darrell) - see BOLSHEVIKS

****

PROMOTER: Gary Fishman CITY: Kew Gardens, NY
LOSER MUST DEFLATE MATCH
Lex Luger vs Ultimate Warrior
SIX MAN
Masked Superstar, Axe Demolition & Bill Eadie
vs
Super Machine, Bolo Mongol, & Billy Crusher
FOREHEAD POSEDOWN
Dusty Rhodes, Carlos Colon, Abdullah the Butcher and Jimmy Valiant
(no points given for crevices less than two inches deep. Winner gets starring role in Nightmare on Elm Street part VI)
KEY TO WWF PHARMACY ON A POLE MATCH
Hulk Hogan vs Warlord
BELLY TO BELLY SUPLEX MATCH
(match can only be won with belly to belly suplex)
Jerry Blackwell vs Kimala

****

PROMOTER: Bobby Baum CITY: Bethesda, MD
Chigusa Nagayo vs Dump Matsumoto
Akira Maeda vs Riki Choshu
Hogan/Savage vs Road Warriors
Ric Flair vs Otto Wanz
Fray Tormenta vs Negro Casas
Notes: Fray Tormenta should win with his trademark hold, the Confessional. He deserves to win since he has been wrestling for charity al along.

****

PROMOTER: Roger Nayman CITY: Albion, NY
Midnight Express/Cornette
vs
Midnight Express/Dangerously
Road Warriors vs Powers of Pain
Ric Flair vs Hulk Hogan
Dusty Rhodes vs Vince McMahon Jr.
George South vs Mike Jackson
Fritz von Erich vs Verne Gagne

****

PROMOTER: Liran Friedman CITY: Miami, FL
Sting vs Owen Hart
Road Warriors vs Hogan/Savage
Ted DiBiase vs Rick Steiner
Ric Flair vs Barry Windham
winner is one who gains most pinfalls in a two hour period
DEATH MATCH
Stan Hansen vs Jose Gonzales
Notes: Flair wins 3 falls to two.

****

PROMOTER: Ross Blair CITY: Simi Valley, CA
Ric Flair vs Owen Hart
Sting vs Ted DiBiase
STEELE CAGE MATCH
Hulk Hogan vs Steve Williams
Midnight Express vs Samoan Swat Team
SCAFFOLD MATCH
Dusty Rhodes vs Andre the Giant

****

PROMOTER: Mike Gendleman City: Hicksville NY
Ric Flair vs Ted DiBiase
Owen Hart vs Tiger Mask
Akira Maeda vs Steve Williams
Arn Anderson, Tully Blanchard, & Barry Windham
vs
Michael Hayes, Terry Godry, & Stan Hansen
Midnight Express vs Randy Savage/Rick Steamboat

****

PROMOTER: Chris Siggia CITY: Erie, PA
Tully & Arn vs Midnight Express
Ted DiBiase vs Curt Hennig
Blue Blazer vs Rick Steiner
Buddy Landell, Tommy Rich, & Eddie Gilbert
vs
Fantastics and Bret Hart
Ric Flair vs Randy Savage
Notes: Flair pins Savage clean in the middle despite outside help from Hulk Hogan. Now everybody realizes the greatness of the "real" champion, Ric Flair.

****

PROMOTER: Ray Whebbe Jr. CITY: Minneapolis
Owen Hart vs Derrick Dukes
Larry Cameron vs Abdullah

****

promoter: Steve Yohe CITY: Alhambra CA
Akira Maeda vs Riki Choshu
Antonio Inoki vs Tatsumi Fujinami
Jimmy Snuka vs Jose Gonzales
Ric Flair vs Blue Blazer
Hulk Hogan vs Stan Hansen

****

More Reader Awards!

DAD, CAN I HAVE A TITLE TOO AWARD - GREG GAGNE (Tim harvey)
INTERVIEW OF THE YEAR (TIE) - HAWK (with the apple and the spike "Precious, Paul, prop please!") & JIM CORNETTE (after the attack by Paul E Dangerously and the Original Midnight Express) (Bill Hanrahan
HE LIKES THE WAY IT SMELLS AWARD - IRON SHEIK (Gary Fishman)
AND YOU THOUGHT HIS DADDY WAS BAD AWARD - DUSTIN RHODES (Gary Fishman)
NICEST ARENA TO SEE LOUSY WRESTLING - NASSAU COLISEUM (gary Fishman)
THE NEPOTISM WILL GET YOU NOWHERE AWARD (TIE) - LEAPING LANNY POFFO & SAM HOUSTON (Gary Fishman)
HE LOOKS BETTER IN A MASK AWARD - DUSTY RHODES (Gary Fishman)
NEXT TIME I'LL TAKE A BOAT TO JAPAN AWARD (TIE) - Bob Orton & Steve Williams (Gary Fishman)
WORST RUMOR OF THE YEAR - LARRY ZBYSZKO TO MARRY VERNE GAGNE"S DAUGHTER AND BECOME AWA CHAMP (gary Fishman)
BEST INAUGURATION INTO THE WORLD OF BLADES - JIM CORNETTE (Liran Friedman)
THE I'M BEGINNING TO SEE MY REFLECTION IN YOUR HEAD AWARD - HULK HOGAN (Liran Friedman)
WALKING DRUGSTORE AWARD - ULTIMATE WARRIOR (Liran Friedman)

More Dream Matches

PROMOTER: Kim Wilson CITY: Parts Unknown
MAIN EVENT
Ric Flair vs Ted DiBiase
match goes to 60 minute draw
Blanchard/Anderson vs Midnight Express
Rick Steamboat vs Randy Savage
Barry Windham vs Bret Hart
Bulldogs vs Fantastics

****

PROMOTER: Ken Brown CITY: Jackson, MI
Ric Flair, Terry Taylor, Owen Hart
vs
Genchiro Tenyru, Jumbo Tsruta, Tatsumi Fujinami
Rougeau Brothers vs Fantastics
Curt Hennig vs Barry Windham
Sid Vicious vs Hulk Hogan
Missy Hyatt vs Medussa Micili

****

PROMOTER: Jeff Lynch CITY: PIttsburgh, PA
Barry Windham vs Brad Armstrong
Midnight Express
vs
Toshiaki Kawada & Ricky Fuyuki
Nobuhiko Takada, Kazuo Yamazaki & Hiro Hase
vs
Bret & Owen Hart & Mark Rocco
Ric Flair vs Masa Saito

****

PROMOTER: Dan Reilly CITY: Enfield CT
Ric Flair vs Hulk Hogan
Road Warriors vs Demolition
Midnight Express & Jim Cornette
vs
Original Midnight Express & Paul Dangerously
Owen Hart vs Tiger Mask
Jesse Ventura vs Vince McMahon

****

PROMOTER: Chris Delliacono
CITY: Clark NJ
Ric Flair vs Randy Savage
Demolition vs Road Warriors
Ultimate Warrior vs Barry Windham
Midnight Express vs Badd Company
Bulldogs & Owen Hart
vs
Tatsumi Fujinami, Riki Choshu & Antonio Inoki